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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

No. 1096

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INTERNATIONAL

WEST'S NEOCOLONIALIST THIRD WORLD POLICIES ATTACKED

Moscow RABOCHIY KLASS I SOVREMENNIY MIR in Russian No 5, Sep-Oct 80 signed to press 4 Sep 80 pp 46-53

[Article by Vasilii Petrovich Agafonov, doctor of philosophical sciences, editor-in-chief of the journal VESTNIK VYSSHEY SHKOLY of the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, and Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, candidate of economic sciences, docent at the Moscow Institute of National Economy imeni G. V. Plekhanov: "Problems of Neocolonialism at the Present Stage"]

[Excerpts] The continuing aggravation of the general crisis of capitalism, which marks the 1970's, finds its expression in the growth of antagonistic contradictions and intensification of the confrontation of developing countries with imperialist powers. Today imperialism is already forced to consider the sad fact that both in the sphere of economic and political relations it often has to take the position of the defending side.

Today many bourgeois politicians rack their brains over how to find new ways of rapprochement with developing countries, because, on the whole, the path of a direct confrontation does not suit them. They anxiously follow, to put it mildly, the awkward foreign political steps by the U.S. Administration, in particular in the region of the Near East and in Iran. What can explain the present striving by Western European countries to reestablish the weakening contacts with developing countries and to find a common language with them? Of course, not the change in the nature of imperialism and its political goals, but the change in the correlation of forces in the world in favor of socialism and the transformations occurring in the developing countries themselves. The following are some of the most important of them.

The process of strengthening the international economic and political positions of developing countries occurred in the 1960's-1970's. Developing countries have gradually become visible rivals of the West in a number of industrial sectors and a tendency--true, as yet not pronounced--toward a gradual elimination of the colonial structure of their economy has appeared.

Next some African and Asian countries have embarked on the path of noncapitalist development and are now successfully implementing profound socioeconomic and political reforms, delivering perceptible blows to foreign monopolies and transnational corporations. The economy of capitalist countries, especially in the part of raw material resources, has begun to more perceptibly depend on developing states.

Furthermore, the positions of liberated countries in the United Nations and in other international regional organizations have continued to strengthen in the last decade.

Finally, the all-around economic and scientific-technical assistance of the USSR and other CEMA members enables Asian, African and Latin American countries to create and develop the foundation for a modern industry. By the end of the 1970's more than 3,000 industrial and other national economic projects have been or are being established there with the assistance of the Soviet Union and other CEMA members. Leaning on the countries of the socialist camp, developing countries are successfully solving the problems of training national cadres.

The successful development of scientific-technical and economic cooperation between developing countries and CEMA members and the growing unity of Afro-Asian and Latin American countries in the development of a political and economic strategy have made it possible to develop for them on an anti-imperialist platform the principle of fight for a new international economic order.

These new realities required from imperialism the ability to adapt itself to them in one way or another and to take them into consideration in its practical policy. This applies primarily to the United States--the leader of the capitalist world. As present events show, taking the realities of the modern world into consideration is, in fact, a complex task for imperialism, which does not want to retreat and surrender its historically lost positions and attempts to revive the policy of the big club and "gunboats." For example, this is manifested with special clarity in U.S. policy in relation to Iran. Americans themselves, including the most soberly thinking public figures, note all the fallaciousness of the short-sighted American policy. For example, the famous historian and diplomat G. Kennan wrote that President J. Carter "made all the mistakes that could be made in relations with other countries and ignored almost everything that we have learned since World War II."¹

U.S. policy of direct military intervention in Near and Middle Eastern countries and the threat of a breakout of a new war, which has become real in connection with the confrontation between the United States and Iran, are some of the major "mistakes" of this kind. Following the establishment of the reactionary Cairo-Tel-Aviv "axis," which according to Pentagon's schemes is to destroy the socioeconomic and political gains of the Arab nations of Syria, Algeria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Afghanistan and other countries of socialist orientation, as well as Iran, the State Department and the Pentagon are taking new measures. They include the introduction of U.S. aircraft carriers into the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea, dispatch of American Air Force subunits to the Near East from the territory of the United States and Western Europe, joint military maneuvers with some Arab countries, placement of stocks of military equipment in this region, development of plans for the creation of "floating" arsenals of arms and, finally, establishment of "quick reaction forces,"² attempts at an economic suffocation of Iran, a military blackmail against this country and so forth.

1. WALL STREET JOURNAL, 21 September 1977.

2. See LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, Juin 1979.

The Near and Middle East are of special importance for international imperialism both from the standpoint of the region's military-strategic positions and as vast sources of petroleum reserves, which are vitally important for Western countries and Japan.

Imperialism also attaches serious importance to strengthening its positions in Latin America, Central and South Africa and South East Asia. Conducting neocolonialist policy, imperialist countries try to coordinate and unify their efforts. However, the fact that internal contradictions are constantly manifested in the camp of capitalism objectively hampers their coordinated action against developing countries and the development and implementation of a unified coordinated policy (although there are numerous and often also successful attempts at attaining unity in the implementation of such a policy). A striving is observed for a detailed substantiation of the general principles of the strategy of neocolonialism within the framework of such organizations as the "Triple Commission" composed of political figures and big businessmen of the United States, Western Europe and Japan, research programs of the "Roman Club" financed by big Western monopolies and other international organizations of the business world.

Appeals for a political and economic coordination of developed capitalist states in their relations with poorly developed countries are heard everywhere. Attempts at a coordination of sanctions on the part of imperialist countries dissatisfied with the policy of some developing country or a group of these countries are most clearly illustrated by Washington's efforts to win Western countries and Japan over to an economic blockade against Iran and by U.S. demands that its allies support its piratical action to "save" the hostages in Iran in April 1980, whose provocative nature is revealed by the fact that it was doomed to failure from the very beginning.

We would like to note that imperialism has quite serious capabilities for the attainment of goals in the area of implementation of political and economic sanctions, capabilities that cannot be underestimated. In particular, it has a significant volume of investments in developing countries, which, basically, are under the control of transnational corporations. This is a comparatively new tendency manifested only from the end of the 1960's. The effect of a reverse tendency, that is, concentration of American investments within the framework of principal imperialist centers--in Western Europe and Japan, as well as in Canada and Australia--was observed during the preceding decade. The new tendency attests to the activation of the efforts of imperialism with regard to the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America and to an enhancement of the role and significance of the economic factor in the West's global policy aimed at strengthening the positions of imperialism in liberated countries.

Multinational corporations present special danger for developing countries.

So-called aid is one of the major means forming the basis for modern neocolonialism. The absolute extent of this "aid" is impressive. However, for an objective evaluation of the essence of this "aid" it is necessary to take the following facts into consideration.

First, despite the fact that this "aid" is significant it has by no means reached the level established by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (0.7 percent of the gross national product of every capitalist country). Moreover, a significant

part of this "aid" is absorbed by inflation, which has gripped the capitalist world, as well as by the flow of profits transferred by transnational corporations from developing countries.

Second, imperialist powers do not set as their goal the rendering of real assistance in the matter of training engineering and technical specialists, scientific intelligentsia and skilled workers, only with whose active participation is it possible to carry out the industrialization of liberated countries with due regard for the achievements of modern science and technology.

Third, monopolies entice many of the most capable specialists of developing countries to work at their enterprises in the West, as a result of which the shortage of skilled personnel in these countries has intensified. The "brain leak" seriously hampers the industrialization of liberated countries.

Next the lion's share of this "aid" was and is given to a group of countries that have chosen the capitalist way of development and, especially, countries with a reactionary regime. Finally, this aid is of a "connected" nature and, in particular, getting it depends upon arms purchases.

The neocolonialist nature of this "aid" at times is also acknowledged by those who participate in its implementation. Such a nature of this "aid" not only does not contribute to the solution of the acute socioeconomic problems of developing countries, but aggravates them, draws these countries into the path of militarization and intensifies the attachment of these countries to Western interests.

As a result, the burden of debts is growing continuously. Basically, these are debts on credits and loans granted in accordance with the terms of the International Monetary Fund, which, as is well known, conducts an active neocolonialist policy in the interest of the United States and international monopolies.

Imperialist countries ever more strongly try to involve developing countries in the arms race, thereby enriching their military monopolies and dooming the peoples of these countries to even greater poverty.

Of course, in its strategy neocolonialism aims at preserving as long as possible in developing countries the socioeconomic structures inherited from colonialism and at connecting as closely as possible the economy of these countries with the world capitalist economy. The basic formula proposed for them by neocolonialism lies in the capitalist way of development. At first the ideologists of neocolonialism maintained that it was sufficient to clear the way for private enterprise in order to ensure the successful development of Asian and African countries. However, the experience of many countries shows that such a way inevitably leads to the impoverishment of wide popular masses, aggravation of social conflicts and strengthening of the positions of a narrow group of comprador bourgeoisie interested in the preservation of backward agrarian relations, the single crop system and an antidemocratic practice of management. The indicated problems are aggravated by the continuous population growth in these countries, which are unable to provide work for the vast masses joining the army of the unemployed. Since the bulk of the population of developing countries is employed in agriculture, the shortage of arable land for the overwhelming number of agricultural workers is the main problem there.

The vast differences among land holdings--the legacy of colonial times--carefully guarded by modern neocolonialism in countries of capitalist orientation aggravate the acuteness of this problem.

At the same time, even at the rapid rates of industrial growth in developing countries (in 1960-1972 at an annual rate of 6.7 percent) unemployment could not be "resolved" significantly, because industrial development began from an extremely narrow base.

In the area of economic neocolonialism some of its trends were developed in the 1970's. They aimed at "controlling" the processes of industrialization of developing countries and increasing the efficiency of the efforts made by the West in these countries.

In the most generalized form these trends are as follows:

rendering financial aid mainly through international neocolonialist organizations, for example, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

rendering types of aid and elaboration of programs serving the development of agriculture on a private capitalist basis;

organization of assistance in setting up the financial and credit mechanism on a capitalist basis, of course. A "realistic economic strategy" is to be implemented on the basis of this mechanism;

propagation of the doctrine of "mutual dependence," which is to "demonstrate" the existence of allegedly objective connections between the solutions adopted in developing countries and the world market conditions;

incentives for the development of the production and utilization of "intermediary" technology that would take into consideration to the greatest degree the specific conditions of developing countries with their limited material-technical and production base;

popularization of the need to encourage foreign capital investments, including stimulation of the business activity of transnational corporations.

Thus, if all these recommendations are to be considered a single whole, they represent a detailed socioeconomic program of modern neocolonialism.

Despite serious failures in its attempts to deter the process of intensification of the progressive development of liberated countries and despite the fact that the correlation of forces in the modern world continues to steadily change not in favor of imperialism, the essence of the latter has not changed. An aspiration for world domination and retention of developing countries in the orbit of capitalist production relations were and remain its strategic goals. Therefore, it can be stated that all the changes in the policy of imperialism with regard to the world of developing countries are changes of a tactical and maneuvering order, no matter how impressive they may seem externally. Various means, that is, the mechanisms of the special military blocs of NATO and CENTO, such organizations as OAS, LAFTA and EEC, the Afro-Malagasy and Mauritian Common Organization "Alliance for Progress," IMF, IBRD and so forth, were and continue to be utilized for these purposes.

The military-strategic activity of imperialism in the Near and Middle East, which also infringes upon the interests of European countries, including the USSR and its allies, presents special danger for the fates of nations. This activity is manifested within the framework of the new policy "from the position of strength," which was developed at American "think tanks" for the purpose of strengthening American economic and political interests in this region.

The countries of Western Europe, Japan and, in part, the United States directly depend on petroleum deliveries from the Near East. Therefore, the problems of petroleum and policy and the economic and military strategic interests of imperialism and petroleum extracting countries have produced a mass of contradictions. Until recently the "Israel-Shah's Iran" axis has served as an important support for imperialism in this region. Another axis--"Israel-Republic of South Africa"--based on military-industrial cooperation and a coordination of actions for the suppression of the national liberation movements of Arab and African nations has also been formed. In the final analysis, the active work of imperialism has led to the fact that the united front of Arab countries opposed to Zionist Israel has been broken. Egyptian President Sadat signed the Camp David agreements, capitulating before imperialism and Zionism

To strengthen its direct military positions in this region, the Pentagon began the development of plans for the establishment of military bases in Sinai and in a number of proimperialist Arab countries. The fall of the Shah's regime in Iran radically changed the situation in this region and confronted the Pentagon with the need to review some of its military-strategic and political concepts.

As is well known, Carter's government is seeking the placement of military bases in some countries of Africa and the Persian Gulf, where a tanker delivering petroleum to Western Europe, Japan and the United States passes every 7 minutes. The United States, building up its power in the region, at the same time, has not given up the idea of enlisting new allies in the localities in order to protect its interests. For example, some strategists consider Egypt a country capable to a certain degree of holding the position of the "regional policeman," which has become vacant as a result of the Iranian revolution.

Present American policy, leaning on very significant military forces and material facilities, is fraught with danger not only for the region's nations, but also for the United States itself and can lead it up a blind alley. The inability to reach a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Camp David acceptable to Arab nations, from which neither Israel nor the United States want to retreat, is the most difficult problem for the latter. Next there is the danger that in such countries as Pakistan, the Yemen Arab Republic, Egypt, Morocco and Sudan the new programs for deliveries of American arms and the use of American advisers, as in Iran, can have a reverse effect and lead to a general protest by the population, which is fraught with a change of these reactionary proimperialist regimes.

An important role in the Pentagon's schemes aimed at the neutralization of the "crisis arc" extending, according to Z. Brzezinski's statement, from South East Asia to the Near East through Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, has been assigned to the Republic of South Africa. Its role is diverse. First, the "bridge" from NATO's southern "flank" to south Africa--the bastion of neocolonialism opposed to

free Africa--spans over the "Israel-Republic of South Africa" axis. Second, the Republic of South Africa is considered a reliable ally of imperialism, on whose territory the military bases will be able to "control" the waters of the Indian Ocean surrounding such "restless regions" of the world as the Hindustan Peninsula, Afghanistan, Iran, a number of Arab countries and so forth. Third, plans for the establishment of another axis--"Republic of South Africa-Latin America"--reflecting NATO's global approaches in the neocolonialist strategy are being perfected. Thus, the system of old military blocs and new "axes" is to take the "crisis arc" in pincers. At the same time, the United States now assigns a special role in the solution of crisis situations to the quick reaction corps.

Under conditions when imperialism, leaning on the forces of international reaction, has shifted to an attack on the sovereign rights of the nations of many developing countries the joint efforts of socialist and developing countries and the coordination of their actions in the fight against the aggressive neocolonialist policy of the United States and other imperialist powers become especially urgent.

In the last few years socialist and developing countries have put forward a vast program for the reorganization of international economic relations. The policy of establishment of a new economic order was advocated in an especially active manner at the "South-North" conference held in Paris for a long time. Capitalist countries try to get away from the urgent problems touched upon by developing countries, do not want to agree with the need for the establishment of qualitatively new economic relations with them and try to instigate and set some groups of these states against others. For example, blaming OPEC countries for the inflation and rise in the cost of living of nations in developing countries and for the deterioration in their material conditions, the ideologists of capitalism try to introduce discord among them and to break the united anti-imperialist front of developing countries. Nevertheless, imperialism does not succeed in reaching its strategic goals--retaining the majority of young countries under its control. It was able to strengthen its influence only on a small number of these states. In such a situation neocolonialism utilizes every opportunity to discredit the assistance rendered by the socialist camp to developing countries and the very nature and goals of this assistance. Specific false newspaper reports on "Moscow's hand" and on contrived strategic interests of the USSR in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the waters of the Indian Ocean are "put into circulation" from time to time, or proimperialist public and political figures, whose number is quite sufficient there, are utilized. With regard to Afghanistan, as is well known, the attempt by imperialism to use the double-dealer and traitor H. Amin for counterrevolutionary purposes ultimately was foiled by the country's progressive forces and this precisely caused the unprecedented anti-Afghan hysteria of bourgeois propaganda.

Developing countries now have real possibilities not only of resisting the onslaught of imperialism, but also of shifting to a decisive attack, which is clearly demonstrated by the example of the successful fight of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries against the international petroleum cartel. The "program of actions for economic cooperation" adopted at the fifth conference of the heads of states and governments of nonaligned countries in Colombo on 20 August 1976 also attests to the above.

The profound difference of positions between the West and developing countries was also disclosed at the UN General Conference on Industrial Development (UNIDO) held in Delhi (India) in January-February 1980. The delegates of developing countries, in practice, coming out in a united front against the West's neocolonialist policy, stressed that the economic backwardness of the majority of developing countries was the consequence of the colonial rule of imperialism.

The processes of integration in a number of developing countries contribute to the successful fight against imperialist forces.

An ever greater number of developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa, undergoing severe tests of the postcolonial period, are choosing the path of socialist orientation. The tendencies toward economic cooperation and integration are strengthened considerably among them. The manifestation and effect of general social and political factors contribute to this. They lead to the fact that the movements for national liberation merge with the fight, which gradually acquires an increasingly joint nature, for the transformation of society on a socialist basis. Of course, the USSR and the entire world socialist camp give significant material and technical assistance to this group of countries in their fight for national and social liberation. The invariably friendly policy of the USSR based on respect for sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other objectively strengthens the interests of Asian and African countries in socialism as a whole and intensifies its magnetic force.

The economic and scientific-technical assistance to liberated nations on the part of the USSR and other CEMA members, which is completely unprecedented in its unselfishness, plays an important role. As a rule, it is given for the establishment of important national economic projects of a production nature, is not linked with any political conditions and is of a long-term nature. This assistance promotes the growth of the state sector, the country's industrial potential, the formation of national cadres and so forth. The protection by the USSR and other countries of the socialist camp of the interests of developing countries is of great importance for the intensification of progressive socioeconomic reforms in them.

The weakness of the positions of imperialism in liberated countries lies primarily in the fact that it does not have a strong support there in the form of a "strong bourgeoisie dominating in society--a class capable of becoming the moving force of capitalist development and of decisively opposing socialist tendencies."¹ Therefore, the bourgeoisie of these countries, even in cases when political forces and their leaders choose the capitalist way of development, is doomed to be a dependent and backward link of world bourgeoisie for a long time. Moreover, local bourgeoisie is extremely variegated in its composition and structure, which makes it "friable" and internally contradictory. Such a nature of national bourgeoisie expands the opportunities for the noncapitalist way of development. In cases when a certain country chooses the capitalist way the examined characteristics of national bourgeoisie contribute to an effective establishment of control over the economy of this country by foreign capital.

1. "Razvivayushchiyesya Strany: Zakonomernosti, Tendentsii, Perspektivy" [Developing Countries: Patterns, Tendencies and Prospects], Moscow, 1974, p. 407.

In many cases capitalist states and transnational corporations have ceased to count only on traditional local exploiting classes, comprador bourgeoisie, feudal lords and the clergy. Officials, employees, the engineering and technical intelligentsia and servicemen are the objects of their close study. From the standpoint of the new concepts of neocolonialism the examined social strata are capable of influencing the choice of the path of further development of the countries under consideration. Therefore, imperialist states pay so much attention to the training of administrative, military and other specialists performing functions of management in their countries. However, no efforts by neocolonizers can stop the revolutionary process in them.

A large group of countries of socialist orientation with a population of about 150 million and with a territory of more than 12 million square km has been formed in Asia and Africa in the last few years.¹ Owing to the fact that a fight against imperialism, for the strengthening of political and economic independence and against any exploitation of man by man is waged there decisively and systematically, these states have become an acknowledged vanguard of the national liberation movement. The nations of these countries intensify the fight for socialism. This is not accidental. The socialist organization of the economic, political and spiritual life in the USSR and in other countries of the socialist camp convincingly shows that only socialism opens up the true way for the solution of the most important, urgent and acute general human problems of the present time.

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1. KOMMUNIST, 1977, No 9, p 36.

INTERNATIONAL

NEED FOR UNITED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT DISCUSSED

Moscow RABOCHIY KLAS I SOVREMENNY MIR in Russian No 5, Sep-Oct 80 signed to press 4 Sep 80 pp 28-35

[Article by Vsevolod Yevgen'yevich Moshayev, head of the International Division of the All-Union Central Trade Union Council: "Policy of Unity of the International Trade Union Movement"]

[Text] The workers of the whole world have marked the 35th anniversary of victory over Hitlerite fascism. This anniversary coincides with another important event in the life of the international working class—the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the only international trade center in which trade unions of socialist, capitalist and liberated countries participate.

Born in the fire of the antifascist fight of nations as an answer to fascism and the world massacre unleashed by imperialism, from the moment of its establishment in October 1945 the World Federation of Trade Unions has waged a tireless, persistent and energetic fight for the unity of all the planet's workers, for peace, the safety of nations, relaxation and disarmament, for the vital interests of people of labor and social progress.

Soviet trade unions, being active members of the World Federation of Trade Unions from the day of its foundation, work as part of it, following the political line of the CPSU, decisions of trade union congresses and decrees of their leading bodies. Such a direction fully meets the basic aspirations of the planet's workers, including all the 190 million members of trade unions united by the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Getting ready now for the 26th CPSU Congress, we again examine the path traversed by the World Federation of Trade Unions during the 35 years of its activity and analyze its present situation, the problems facing us and our role and tasks in this connection.

The unity of actions, whose embodiment was the World Federation of Trade Unions from the first days of its activity, was not forged simply. At that time it included representatives of various trends of the working class movement, who approached the many important problems that troubled workers during those difficult postwar years in different ways. Nevertheless, within the framework of the World Federation of Trade Unions it proved to be possible, by comparing various political views and ideological principles, to find ways for common work on reviving

trade unions in former fascist countries and in war ravaged European states, on setting up the trade union movement in colonies and on rallying the planet's workers in defense of the world and the security of nations.

Reformists did not tolerate such a comparison of views within the framework of a single world trade union center. They cut off a number of trade union organizations in Western Europe and North America from the World Federation of Trade Unions, establishing a separate and closed organization in 1949—the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—and tried to prohibit all forms of contacts between the members of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Life has shown not only the futility, but also the unrealistic nature of such a line. Interests common to all workers throughout the world reversed all bans and forced the leaders of trade union reformism to more and more often sit at one table with the representatives of the class trade union movement. All-European trade union conferences, the finding of unified positions on a number of important problems in the International Labor Organization and world actions according to the line of many sectorial trade unions—these are only some testimonies of this.

Of course, the opponents of unity did not lay down their arms. They try to revive the bans on contacts among trade unions of various directions and to poison the atmosphere in the international trade union movement by anticommunist attacks (as this was, for example, at the last 12th Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), slanders against socialist countries in the International Labor Organization and various absurdities, such as the nonadmission of the delegation of Soviet rank-and-file workers to the United States this summer.

However, objective factors in world development are not in their favor. The working class now especially needs unity in the cause of protecting the world in the face of the attempts to bury detente and to bring the world to the brink of war. The working class needs unity in the fight against international monopolies—multinational and transnational—which have enmeshed the capitalist world in their nets and are doing everything to break up and split the working class and its trade unions. The working class needs unity as an antidote to the attempts by imperialists to use neocolonialist methods of robbing the workers of young liberated countries. The working class needs unity, without which it is impossible to withstand unemployment, inflation, fascism and race discrimination.

The World Federation of Trade Unions took the line of unity as the basis for all its activity. After the formation of the International Conference of Free Trade Unions the World Federation of Trade Unions repeatedly and systematically appealed to it and to the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (now the World Federation of Labor) for a unity of actions and for a dialogue.

The invariability of this line in combination with the effect of the above-stated objective factors in development led to the fact that such a dialogue was set up between the World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Confederation of Labor. There is no doubt that the still occasional contacts between the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions will lead to a regular dialogue, despite the anticommunist invocations at times repeated by the latter.

Of course, the harmful activity of the enemies of unity in no way can be underestimated. The leaders of the AFL-CIO head them. Whereas in 1969 this American trade union center left the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions because its leadership considered it "insufficiently anticommunist" and in 1977, the International Labor Organization approximately for the same reasons, now American dissenters are changing their tactics. The United States returned to the International Labor Organization in 1979 and next year the AFL-CIO is to return as a member to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The idea of both actions is clear--"to fight against communism" while being in these organizations, but, in practice, to come out against progressive tendencies in the trade union movement, wherever and in whatever they may be manifested. The last general conference of the International Organization of Labor (Geneva, June 1980) showed that it was not so simple to realize the American schemes. The times were different and there was a different correlation of trade union forces in the world. However, it would be naive to assume that the AFL-CIO would give up its undermining activity in the world trade union movement because of the defeat in Geneva. Rather to the contrary.

The fight in connection with the problem of trade union unity is also expanding within the framework of the European Confederation of Trade Unions established in 1972. Pursuing, under the pressure of objective factors and the will of rank-and-file members of their trade unions, the development of bilateral contacts with the trade unions of socialist countries and a periodic convocation of general European trade union conferences, at the same time, some leaders of Western European trade union centers try to retain the European Confederation of Trade Unions as a closed bloc center closely connected with the "common market." In June of this year the request for the entry of France's General Confederation of Labor into the European Confederation of Trade Unions was rejected in a demonstrative manner and the consideration of applications for the entry of progressive trade union centers of Spain, Portugal and Turkey into it was postponed.

As a result of the activity of reformist leaders the unitary process in the trade union movement of a number of countries--Italy, France and Spain--has slowed down and dissident intrigues in Portugal's trade unions have increased. Attempts to unify Japanese trade unions on the platform of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions with the strengthening of anticommunist and even anti-Soviet tendencies have intensified.

However, even in the situation that has been created the World Federation of Trade Unions firmly adheres to the position of unity of actions of all the detachments of the world trade union movement. On the basis of this principled line reflecting the fundamental interests and aspirations of our planet's workers the World Federation of Trade Unions is developing its specific actions and proposals.

At the same time, the World Federation of Trade Unions has repeatedly confirmed in word and deed that, while putting the idea of unity of the working class in the center, it does not pursue any mercenary goals and does not try to subordinate other trade union centers to itself.

The World Federation of Trade Unions manifested readiness for compromise and for finding mutually acceptable solutions in the spirit of full equality of partners during the elaboration of the unified document on the fight against unemployment

at the World Conference on Problems of Employment (Geneva, 1976), during the preparation for and holding of the International Trade Union Conference on Problems of Development (Belgrad, 1980) and in many other cases. The sectorial trade union associations affiliated with the World Federation of Trade Unions and the federation's member organizations constantly demonstrate such an approach.

Soviet trade unions clearly defined their position in this respect. At the 16th Congress of USSR Trade Unions Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, expressing the point of view of Soviet workers, stated:

"We welcome any steps promoting the search for common positions and the organization of cooperation among major international trade union centers--the World Federation of Trade Unions, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and World Confederation of Labor.

"Although the attainment of unity of the international trade union movement is a long and complex process, we are convinced that it will proceed in an ascending line. In any event Soviet trade unions have worked for this prospect and will continue to do so."¹

Improvement in the specific trade union nature of the World Federation of Trade Unions is an important problem for the enhancement of its international prestige.

The following question is of decisive importance for the rank-and-file trade union member and for the trade union activist of any level: How does the international trade union center meet the most vitally important problems of a socioeconomic nature?

In an attempt to meet vital social problems, beginning from the Fifth World Trade Union Congress held in Moscow in 1961 the World Federation of Trade Unions has developed universal programs of actions of trade unions, expressing in them a class evaluation of the major phenomena of a socioeconomic order and determining the prospect for the fight of workers of various regions and countries throughout the world. The charter of trade union rights and socioeconomic demands of workers adopted by the Eighth World Trade Union Congress (1973) was perhaps the most comprehensive document of this kind and it retained its urgency to a significant degree during subsequent years.

At the same time, the World Federation of Trade Unions profoundly worked out individual major socioeconomic problems: at the bureau in Berlin in November 1979, the problem of unemployment, in the book by the French researcher F. Zarifian published by the World Federation of Trade Unions in 1976, the problems of the effect of inflation on workers' situation and at the session of the bureau in Cotonou in June 1980, the new world economic order.

1. Brezhnev, L. I., "Leninskiy Kursom. Rech'i i Stat'ii" /Following Lenin's Course. Speeches and Articles/, Moscow, 1978, Vol 6, p 333.

Four wide-scale unitary conferences on problems of working women and three conferences on problems of young workers convened on the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions were held successfully. The Commission on Problems of the Status of Engineering and Technical Personnel of the World Federation of Trade Unions is engaged in very useful work.

The international associations of sectorial trade unions affiliated with the World Federation of Trade Unions carry out many valuable initiatives.

Most international associations of sectorial trade unions--there are now 11--emerged more than 30 years ago as sectorial divisions of the World Federation of Trade Unions. However, life has shown the need to make the organizations unifying workers by sectors independent. As scientific and technical progress develops, ever newer problems specific for a given economic sector appear. Accordingly, workers' demands made by trade unions on industrialists and bourgeois states become more and more specific. This has predetermined the ever greater autonomy of the international associations of sectorial trade unions from the World Federation of Trade Unions, whose general political line they continue to follow.

Sectorial international trade union centers also become more and more independent because they are closer to workers and to factory and plant personnel and are capable to a greater extent of reflecting the new forms of struggle arising in "lower trade union strata," at times despite the reformist orientation of the leaders of a specific national trade union center.

All these factors have led to a situation where the sectorial trade union movement in the cause of unity of actions often outstrips world trade union centers. Unified seminars of railroad workers with the participation of trade unions of various trends, as well as conferences of motor vehicle builders, have been held for a number of years. Business contacts for specific problems of trade union work are maintained by sectorial associations of miners, wood workers and teachers of different orientations.

International associations of sectorial trade unions more and more often find problems of interest to trade unions regardless of their orientation. For example, the latest initiatives of the international associations of sectorial trade unions of builders, chemists and petroleum workers, transport workers and so forth have found a broad response in the trade union movement.

The list of what has been done could be continued. However, the present situation does not give reason for calm.

First of all, it is a matter of fighting a dangerous enemy of workers--international monopolies. As early as the beginning of the 1960's the World Federation of Trade Unions and international associations of sectorial trade unions began to implement measures aimed at rallying workers against these "Gullivers" of present capitalism. Subsequently, however, this fight was not put in the forefront of the federation's socioeconomic activity and measures to revive it have been taken only recently.

It is also extremely important for the World Federation of Trade Unions to become a place for the collection and generalization of the experience of workers' strike movement in capitalist countries and a center of expression of solidarity of the world trade union movement with major strike and other actions of the working class.

The last 1½ decades--years of a sharp aggravation of the class struggle in the capitalist world--have brought about the appearance of or put in the forefront new methods of workers' actions not widespread previously.

"Chess" strikes characterized by the fact that a strike is conducted sometimes at one and sometimes at another production section and, as a result, production as a whole is paralyzed have emerged in Italy. In Scotland and other European countries workers use "strikes in reverse," when workers not only seize an enterprise, as was also the case before, but continue production, thereby demonstrating the possibility of working without a boss. Workers' spring and fall offensives, in the course of which the struggle potential of the entire organized working class is gathered in one focus, have become the chief method of struggle in Japan.

The slogans of workers' struggle are also changing. As a result, the economic actions of the working class are often transformed into threatening political storms, which shake the very foundations of the state monopolist rule. Let us recall the strike by British miners in 1974, which was conducted under purely economic slogans, but led to the resignation of the conservative government. The World Federation of Trade Unions and international associations of sectorial trade unions could more actively popularize the new struggle experience.

There are also other socioeconomic problems where the World Federation of Trade Unions could use its forces with greater efficiency. The federation has the will, necessary tools and support among member organizations for this. Daily practical work on this plane, activity and purposefulness in the attainment of the tasks set are important.

The further intensification of the attention of the World Federation of Trade Unions to socioeconomic problems will by no means contradict another aspect of its activity--political solidarity.

In the aktiv of the World Federation of Trade Unions there are all its clear class positions on all problems of international life troubling the workers of our planet.

Today for all people of labor there is no more important a problem than the preservation of peace, consolidation of detente and cessation of the arms race.

This problem is of special significance now, when reactionary imperialist circles more and more openly follow the line of aggravation of international tension, intensification of confrontation and undermining of detente which is the main achievement of peace loving forces in the 1970's. Essentially, this stops the policy of the Peking leadership, which readily pursues expanded military and political cooperation with the United States.

In the international trade union movement there are also tendencies objectively weakening the trade union front of struggle for peace. Such tendencies are manifested in the activity of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which includes many trade union centers of Western European countries. Ignoring the repeated appeals by the World Federation of Trade Unions to it, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions continues to persistently reject joint actions toward strengthening peace and detente. Statements imbued with the spirit of "cold war" and anticommunism were again heard at the 12th Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions held in Madrid in November 1979. Such a position deserves to be condemned. Under the present conditions of aggravation of the international situation caused by the striving of aggressive circles of imperialism to hamper the objective process of renovation of the world and by the attempts to upset the military balance formed in the world in their favor, in detriment to the Soviet Union and socialist countries, in detriment to detente and safety of nations, one must not be limited only to words about peace.

The opposition by a number of Western European trade union centers to the placement of American rockets in Western Europe shows that not all the trade union centers forming part of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions operate in the spirit of the leadership of this organization. Many of them decisively oppose the unrestrained arms race and demand a reduction of budgetary allocations for military needs and joint actions in favor of detente and disarmament.

Responding to this problem, the World Federation of Trade Unions does not limit itself to statements of a general political order. It seeks a specific trade union approach in order not to repeat the work done by the movement for peace and antiwar organizations. The World Federation of Trade Unions placed the preparation for a world trade union conference on the socioeconomic aspects of the disarmament problem in the center of its activity on this problem. To show workers of all countries how harmful is the arms race, which takes away their jobs and funds necessary for the fight against hunger and diseases and for the construction of schools and dwellings, to expose in the eyes of trade union members the falsity of statements by the bourgeois propaganda on the "advantage" of arms for the maintenance of employment and to convince people of labor that disarmament, detente and development of peaceful economic relations between the East and West are of real benefit for them--this is the standpoint from which the World Federation of Trade Unions conducts this work.

A great deal has been written on the socioeconomic aspects of the arms race and disarmament both in scientific and trade union publications recently.

A discussion of the social consequences of trade and economic relations between the East and West for workers is held to a much lesser extent and for the time being with no arguments. Meanwhile, these problems are no less important and are not less subjected to distortion by the opponents of detente and their agents in the working class movement. Their arguments are as follows: Economic relations lead to the "transfer of jobs to the East" and, therefore, to the growth of unemployment in the West. The compensation nature of a number of deals of foreign trade organizations of socialist countries with Western firms leads to the intensification of the competitive fight on Western markets and enables monopolies to

increase their onslaught on the rights and interests of workers in capitalist countries. Trade with the East enriches international and national corporations and is of no benefit for workers.

The unsoundness and falsity of such argumentation is clear to us. But this is by no means always clear to the worker of the capitalist West. Otherwise, for example, Meany and his successors from the reactionary leadership of the AFL-CIO could not organize boycotts of Soviet ships, which deliver the shipments to the United States that make economic relations so profitable for American workers.

The discussion on problems of development of economic relations between the East and West began among various national trade union centers in Europe. The realization of the proposal by Poland's Central Trade Union Council on holding a European meeting on these problems is of the utmost importance on this plane. The contribution of the World Federation of Trade Unions to this discussion is to lend it a true world nature and to contribute to the exposure of the intrigues of the enemies of detente.

The federation fights without compromise against the true culprits of the rise in international tension—American imperialists and Peking hegemonists. The World Federation of Trade Unions efficiently headed the work on expressing solidarity and rendering assistance to socialist Vietnam subjected to Chinese aggression.

The fighting workers of Laos, Cuba, Algeria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Indonesia and Sudan also invariably received effective assistance in word and deed from the World Federation of Trade Unions. The people of South Korea, Palestine, the Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Nicaragua, Salvador, Chile, Uruguay, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Lebanon and Cyprus can also be confident of its support now. The World Federation of Trade Unions held a clear class position with regard to the Shah's regime in Iran and the antitrade union measures in Tunisia.

One of the main reasons for the growing influence of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Asian, African and Latin American countries lies in this. Having appeared during the first years of activity of the World Federation of Trade Unions as the result of the firm anticolonial position of the federation's class nucleus, this influence has strengthened especially in the last few years. The trade union centers of these three continents now comprise more than two-thirds of the member organizations of the World Federation of Trade Unions. New members primarily from these regions join the federation.

The gravitation of the trade unions of liberated countries toward the World Federation of trade unions is reinforced by the fact that the federation helps them to an ever greater extent in personnel training and in organizational consolidation. In this it finds support on the part of USSR trade unions and other socialist countries.

The role of the World Federation of Trade Unions as an organ linking workers of socialist and liberated countries increases steadily, because the fight for a young working class of the three continents between the forces of progress and those that would want to see the proletariat of Asia, Africa and Latin America as a reserve of imperialism and national reaction has intensified during the last decades.

To break the bonds of friendship and sympathy formed among workers of liberated countries--the West's class trade union movement and workers of the world of socialism--imperialists and transnational monopolies with their powerful apparatus and means of mass information work in this direction. The reactionary leaders of U.S. trade unions and of the Israeli Histadrut and all kinds of Western funds and institutions work in this direction together with them. The trade union leaders of the three continents, who try to fence off "their" regional trade union movement from the progressive, class flow of the world trade union movement work--voluntarily or not--in this direction.

Under these conditions the World Federation of Trade Unions has firmly defined its line, establishing friendly relations with continental trade union centers--the Organization of African Trade Union Unity, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, the Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers--implementing joint measures with them, concluding agreements on cooperation and making unified statements on important international problems. Although a number of member organizations of these trade union centers are, at the same time, members of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the latter by no means uses this circumstance to interfere in their internal affairs or to attempt to influence their political line. This double affiliation only strengthens the fraternal relations between workers united by the World Federation of Trade Unions and workers of the three continents.

Soviet trade unions, which maintain regular contacts with the trade unions of the overwhelming majority of countries of the three continents, try to help the World Federation of Trade Unions in strengthening its prestige in the young trade union movement of liberated countries. They also intend to follow this course in the future.

Following the principles of trade union unity, the World Federation of Trade Unions has done extensive work on improving its structure and activity and will continue to do so.

In this light the federation's steady movement along the path of democratization and intensification of its open nature should be noted primarily. The World Federation of Trade Unions is one of the few international organizations whose supreme body is a congress open to trade unions not members of the federation. More than 300 trade union organizations from 126 countries were represented at the last Ninth World Congress of Trade Unions held in Prague in 1978. Two-thirds of these organizations were not members of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

All delegates to such congresses have equal rights. They equally participate in the determination of the political line of the World Federation of Trade Unions and of the basic trends in its work for the forthcoming period. Is this not the best demonstration of the federation's truly open and democratic nature?

In the general council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, where all its member organizations are represented, the principle of full equality has been in effect from 1969. Soviet trade unions, which unite about 128 million people, have one vote, like, for example, the San Marino Trade Union Center with its 1,500 members. Organizations not members of the World Federation of Trade Unions are

invited more and more often to the session of the general council. They participate on the basis of equal rights in the discussion of all the problems of the federation's activity, except for financial problems.

The bureau of the World Federation of Trade Unions and its secretariat are elected on the basis of the equality of big and small trade union centers with due regard for the geographical distribution.

The practice of holding the bureau's meetings on various continents with a discussion of the problems of a given continent and invitation to such meetings of organizations not members of the bureau active on it has expanded in the last few years.

Such an open and democratic nature of the World Federation of Trade Unions contributes to the enlistment of an ever greater number of organizations of different orientations in its activity. It has enabled the federation to retain a truly universal nature. Trade unions of all the parts of the world and trade union centers of socialist, capitalist and liberated countries and of the territories that have not yet reached national independence are represented in it.

This gives the World Federation of Trade Unions the unique possibility of discussing any problems troubling workers throughout the world with an immediate consideration of the views of all the categories of people of labor.

The process of democratization of the World Federation of Trade Unions and of lending it an ever more open nature at times has occurred in an atmosphere of sharp debates. For example, the Maoists tried to push the federation to the path of sectarianism during the first half of the 1960's. Not having attained their goals, they forbade the All-Chinese Federation of Trade Unions to participate in the measures of the World Federation of Trade Unions and soon disbanded it completely. After the restoration of trade unions in China the Maoists did not manifest a desire to cooperate with the World Federation of Trade Unions.

One would think that the process of democratization of the World Federation of Trade Unions cannot be considered complete. In an attempt to make the federation's measures even more open, Soviet trade unions suggested that the World Federation of Trade Unions initiate the convocation of a wide consultative forum of trade unions of various trends, at which an open discussion on any problems without a previously fixed agenda could be held.

There is no doubt that life will open up other ways leading to this goal.

As was shown, the World Federation of Trade Unions entered the 1980's with a good start. It has all the objective prerequisites for further growth and strengthening.

At the same time, the beginning decade places increased, new demands on the World Federation of Trade Unions. Only by the joint efforts of all its member organizations is it possible to help it rise to the height of the new tasks.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is not simply the sum of sovereign trade union centers. It is also the union of progressive forces of the world trade union movement and an expression of the ideas of proletarian internationalism and of the true interests of workers throughout the world. It is within its powers to improve its work and to even more strengthen its prestige among the working class of the world.

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INTERNATIONAL

SOVIET-AFGHAN GEOLOGICAL COOPERATION

Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 6 Nov 80 p 2

[Article by A. Nikitin, geologist of the Tajik Geological Survey Expedition: "What I Accomplished in Afghanistan"]

[Text] Afghanistan seemed to me to be a distant country. No, not in the sense of distance (the flight to Kabul takes only a few hours), but in understanding the feelings and thoughts of people living abroad. But here the newspapers had brought us the news about the April Revolution in Afghanistan which established the power of the people. Now all of us were following with great excitement the development of events in this country and the first steps by the Afghan people along the path of revolutionary changes. Its concerns, needs, and affairs became closer and more understandable to us.

And when it was proposed that our group of geologists should travel to Afghanistan in order to assist local specialists in geological surveys, we understood that this task was a part of that larger aid which our country was rendering to the friendly Afghan people.

They met us like close friends. We quickly found a common language with the specialists with whom we were supposed to work for several months.

Together with them we carried out prospecting for minerals. And I tell you frankly that, although our geologists were not lacking in persistence and tireless work, we did not cease to be amazed, I would say, by the persistence and stamina in work of our Afghan colleagues.

"Now that we have a people's regime, we need to think about strengthening it by the rapid development of our economy," they said. "Therefore, we need raw materials, metals, and petroleum."

During our joint work we became close friends with our Afghan colleagues and often held long conversations over tea. They spoke about the future of their country, which was being born right before our eyes; they also spoke about our country and, of course, about Tajikistan.

I told them about the Nurekskaya GES, which was built by the entire country, the Tajik Aluminum Plant, and the Vakhshsk Valley where swamps had previously existed. I was literally bombarded with questions.

We did not need any translators. Khakimutdin, for example, had graduated from the Leningrad Mining Institute, Rasul had graduated from Moscow State University, while Amin had graduated from the Kabul Polytechnical Institute and planned to do graduate work among us in the Soviet Union. He already knew Russian.

"Your aid is the aid of a true friend," said the Afghans. "At the most difficult moment you did not desert us."

I could not help comparing their sincere words with the hysterical radio broadcasts and false information of the Western newspapers, which shouted about the supposed Soviet intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan.

Our Afghan friends characterized these inventions briefly as follows:

"The dog may bark, but the caravan goes on its way."

These words are to the point, and there is nothing else to be said!

Yes, we "interfered" in the affairs of Afghanistan with whom we were bound by a joint treaty of friendship, good neighborliness, and cooperation. My colleagues, for example, have been of assistance here in seeking out valuable minerals, our engineers have provided aid in the construction of plants, our physicians have treated people, and our irrigation specialists have built canals.

I recall when I was leaving that our expedition driver Khasan asked me the following question:

"Do you happen to know the driver named Misha? He used to work here among us and he's a very fine person."

"Our country is a large one, and it's difficult to know any particular driver named Misha. But in our country they are all like him."

"You spoke the truth there, brother," Khasan said as he shook my hand. "The Soviet people are our friends."

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INTERNATIONAL

TURKMENS WRITE FOR AFGHAN NEWSPAPER

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 13 Nov 80 p 4

[Article: "Friendship among Newspapers"]

[Text/ The newspaper GORESH, which is published in Afghanistan in the Turkmen language, has acquainted its readers with the poems of the republic's folk writer, K. Kurbannepesov, and the poet, M. Seidov.

Strong ties of friendship bind this young publication, which began to be issued after the April 1979 Revolution, with the literary newspaper of Turkmenistan, EDEBIYAT VE SUNGAT. The articles and works of belles lettres by Soviet literary figures which GORESH gladly reprints open up to the members of Afghanistan's national minority--an equal among the equal peoples of this country--a panorama of our republic's cultural life.

The ties between these two publications were strengthened during the visit to Turkmenia by a large group of Afghan public figures, included among which was the editor-in-chief of the newspaper GORESH, Seyd Sediyl Aminiy. He met with K. Berdyev, the editor of the newspaper EDEBIYAT VE SUNGAT, as well as with the Turkmen writers S. Atayev and R. Esenov. This literary man from a friendly country thanked his colleagues for their support and fraternal aid to a young publication. It was decided to have regular exchanges of articles on cultural topics, speeches by figures in the arts, and works of belles lettres.

"The newspaper is an effective medium for strengthening friendship between our two peoples," declared Seyd Sediyl Aminiy. "The experience of cultural construction in the USSR is needed by my fellow-countrymen in the emergence of our new life. In our turn, we will be telling Turkmenistan's readers about the changes in democratic Afghanistan, about our confident steps into the bright future."

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INTERNATIONAL

TURKMEN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HOLDS CONFERENCE

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 13 Dec 80 p 1

[Article: "Friendship Society Conference"]

[Text] On 12 December the Fourth Republic Conference of the Turkmen Society of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries was held in Ashkhabad. An honorary presidium of the conference was elected, consisting of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, headed by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev.

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan M. M. Mollayeva read the greetings sent to the conference by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan, and she wished it success in its work.

The main report on the society's activities was delivered by the chairman of the presidium of the Turkmen Friendship Society, R. M. Esenov.

This rapporteur and the other speakers noted the great amount of work being carried on by the society and its numerous active members with regard to propagandizing abroad the world-wide historical gains of of society, the advantages of the Soviet way of life, the Leninist, peace-loving foreign policy of the CPSU, and the establishment of friendly relations with foreign public organizations. Following the example of the life of the workers of Soviet Turkmenistan, the society's activists are extensively propagandizing the achievements of this republic's workers in developing the economy and culture under the guidance of the Communist Party in the fraternal family of the peoples of the USSR.

Informational and propagandistic materials and items of applied folk art have been sent to 156 addresses and 90 countries of the world. During this period 300 delegations have come here from 50 countries of all continents. About 4,000 measures have been carried out, devoted to anniversary and memorial dates of foreign countries, in which tens of thousands of persons have taken part.

The conference was also addressed by Ye. V. Ivanov, deputy chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries.

With regard to the question under discussion the appropriate decree was adopted.

The delegates to the conference elected new personnel for the society's board and revision commission, as well as delegates to the Fourth All-Union Conference of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries.

Participating in the work of the conference were R. A. Bazarova, deputy chairperson of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers, A. A. Karliyeva, manager of the Cultural Section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan, and R. M. Karryyeva, deputy chairperson of the Presidium of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet.

* * *

The delegates to the conference laid flowers at the monument to V. I. Lenin.

* * *

At the first organizational session of the board of the Turkmen Society of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries R. M. Ezenov was elected as its chairman.

(Turkmeninform)

2384
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INTERNATIONAL

TURKMENS ACTIVE IN SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 2 Nov 80 p 3

[Article by R. Ezenov, president of the Turkmen Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries: "Inspired by Friendship"]

[Text] This conversation occurred during the past summer at a meeting with an Afghan delegation which had come to visit our republic. In talking about himself, one of the guests happened to mention that just recently he had given away his youngest daughter in marriage and that a Komsomol wedding had been celebrated.

"Yes, yes, a Komsomol wedding," smiled the Afghan. "We observed all the rules and all the rituals; the main thing was that the bride sat with an unveiled face...not like it used to be with the bride hidden in the corner. We listened to Soviet music and sang songs written by your composers. It was very jolly. To be sure, the wedding was conducted within a narrow circle, among only the closest relatives. This is somewhat dangerous now, just as it is somewhat dangerous to study the Russian language, something our people have a great yearning to do. Foes are fierce and vengeful, but innovations are becoming part of our life, and nothing can stop them. For us the Soviet Union, its people, their way of life and thoughts form a living example...."

"Afghans, especially the Turkmens who live in Afghanistan," continued the guest, "are vitally interested in all aspects of the life of the working people of Soviet Turkmenistan. And they write in our press about Komsomol weddings.... So we went and had one at our place. To be sure, this goes against the grain of the foes of the April Revolution, all those who would like to hinder our forward progress."

That's the way it was once here also, in our young Soviet republic. But dusk inevitably gives way to the dawn; the new, the bright, and the joyful replaces the old and the obsolete. We must speak out about this. Because today the lands of my fathers and forefathers are as different from the recent past as a bright May morning is from the gloomy shadows of winter.

It was dark and lowly, this region of sands and ancient caravan trails, even though it did possess inexhaustible resources of human souls and natural resources. It had a very old history and a very rich culture, which had been pulled down and trampled upon, unfortunately, by conquerors; they oppressed it and strangled it into obscurity. This enormous region, which now has tens of thousands of machines at its disposal, until the revolution had only...64 iron plows. As the highest achievement of everyday culture it knew the ten-line kerosene lamp. And a great deal had to be done in order to reach today's Maryyakiy Energy Complex and the other TETs's and GRES's which pour shining electric light and power throughout the republic, and in order to extract millions of tons of petroleum and billions of cubic meters of "blue fuel."

More and more clearly and expressively Turkmenistan has assumed the characteristics of an industrial region. Already today it exports more than 30 types of products to 50 of the world's countries. That same Turkmenistan which once was only a dark spot on the map!

It has been justifiably said that the cultural level of any nation is evaluated by the social position of its women. Now, when Turkmen women occupy posts of ministers and enterprise directors, when they defend candidate and doctoral dissertations, take part in literally all the spheres of the economy, head up delegations of figures of Turkmen culture to foreign countries, it is hard to imagine how gloomy and terrible was the fate of Turkmen women, as legitimized by the religious, legal, and traditional norms.

Yes, we are rightly proud of the successes which the Turkmen people have achieved during the years of the Soviet regime. We say this with a loud voice everywhere and to everybody with whom the many thousands of activists in the Turkmen Society of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries come into contact.

Now our Friendship Society numbers about 250 group members within its ranks. Taking an active part in its work are the following prominent members of the republic's public: People's Artist of the USSR and Deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet Issat Klychev, People's Artist of the USSR Medeniet Shakhberdiyeva, the oil worker and Hero of Socialist Labor Nurikhadshi Der'yakuliyev, kolkhoz chairman and deputy to the republic's Supreme Soviet Kerim Akhmediyarov, and many others.

Our work would be unthinkable without people, without widespread support from our active members, without close ties with numerous organizations--public, youth, and state. The entire essence of our society's activity, the entire strength of the organization lies in the fact that thousands and thousands of persons have been drawn into it; their striving towards peace and friendship between nations is great and invincible, and our society as a mass organization expresses this noble will of the working people.

Memorable was the ten-day festival of Soviet-Indian friendship, devoted to the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of India. India is

our sincere friend, and the role played by the Indian people in the cause of maintaining and strengthening peace in Asia, as well as on the entire planet, is very great. During this ten-day festival more than 50 evenings were held of friendship, meetings, and a festival of Indian films, as well as book and photo exhibits. We utilized various forms and methods of propaganda in order to show the peaceful strivings of the Indian people and its achievements after gaining independence. For example, Shamukhamed Ak-mukhamedov, chairman of the board of the Union of Turkmen Artists, opened a one-man show entitled "Through India"; he appeared before numerous audiences, relating his impressions of this fabulous country, and showed colored slides which he had brought from there. And the writer G. I. Iyaz Atayev showed on television the documentary film entitled "The Turkmen Gate," which he had shot in Delhi. Great interest was evoked by the appearances of Professor Kovsa Kurdov, the folk poetess of Turkmenistan, Tushan Esenova, the prose writer, Yasmurad Mamediyev, and others, who have dedicated some of their works to India, its people, and its enchanting nature.

An important place in the activity of the Society and its sections is taken up by propaganda for the achievements of the Turkmen republic and the Soviet way of life. Recently emissaries from our republic took part in USSR Days in France and in Friendship Days in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. An unforgettable impression was made on the French public by the achievements of Soviet Turkmenistan in the fields of economy and culture. In opening the exhibit entitled "Soviet Turkmenistan through French Eyes," Guy Desson, the executive president of the France--USSR Society, stated the following: "The Great October Socialist Revolution transformed backward Turkmenia into a republic with a well-developed industry and agriculture. The development of Turkmen culture and art is amazing and worthy of admiration. The achievements of the Turkmen people clearly demonstrate what people can accomplish when their rational intelligence and energy serve peace."

Our ties with foreign countries are extensive and multi-faceted. We maintain continuous contacts with public organizations and individual progressive figures in more than 90 of the world's countries, and we send informational and propaganda materials as well as objects of applied folk arts to almost 200 addresses, 46 foreign cultural centers, and Houses of Soviet Science and Culture. Abroad during the last three years alone 35 of the world's countries have promulgated comprehensive measures devoted to the Turkmen SSR, propagandizing by various forms and methods the Soviet way of life, the advantages of the Soviet system of socialist democracy. The success of these measures has been facilitated considerably by the informational and propaganda materials which the Turkmen Friendship Society has sent out.

Turkmens have a saying: "A guest should be honored above a father." We not only welcome foreign delegations with bread and salt, organize their meetings with state and public figures, representatives of the working class, kolkhoz daykhans [?], and conduct friendship evenings, but we also show them our new plants and factories, cities and oases which have sprung up in the arid desert. An unforgettable impression is made on them by the Karakumskiy

Canal imeni V. I. Lenin. This is not only a magnificent spectacle with its man-made seas and hydraulic engineering structures. This construction project is a child of socialism, of the wise Leninist nationality policy, which has transformed a once-backward region into a flowering oasis, into a progressive industrial-agrarian republic. This is an international construction project: it was built by 250 cities and members of 36 nationalities of the Land of the Soviets.

One could talk endlessly about the measures which are being conducted in which our active members have taken an active part--about the Days of Soviet-Syrian and Soviet-Yemeni Friendship in the republic, about the ties between the adopted brother-cities Ashkhabad and Bamako (Mali), between Turkmenistan and the state of Tamil Nadu (India), about the enormous amount of work which is being conducted by the crews of seagoing vessels which sail to foreign countries, bearing the names linked with Turkmenia or with its outstanding figures. . . . There is not space enough to talk about everything. Let me cite just one figure: during the last five years, with the participation of our society's active members, about 4,000 measures have been promulgated in the republic, in which tens of thousands of persons have participated.

Our age is characterized by a large scope of aspirations and accomplishments, and primarily by the large scope of the struggle for a person's right to live and create freely, and to be happy. The entire path which we have travelled during the years of the Soviet regime and all the achievements of our state are inextricably bound up with the constant paternal concern of the party for the harmonious development of the national culture of each fraternal people, and of each nation. The great Leninist friendship of peoples, whose torch was lit from the flames of the October Revolution, has united us forever into a single fraternal family. It has aided us in holding out during difficult battles for the triumph of socialism in the struggle against fascism; now it is aiding us to solve with confidence those fundamental problems which the Communist Party has assigned to the Soviet people. Inspired by this great and bright friendship, Soviet Turkmenistan--a blood corpuscle of our great Motherland--is living, struggling, and creating.

2384
CSO: 1800

INTERNATIONAL

FLO INFORMATION CHIEF VISITS ASHKHABAD

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 3 Dec 80 p 3

[Article: "The People's Will Is Not To Be Broken"]

[Text] ASHKHABAD. 2 December. (Turkmeninform). "The Palestinian people highly value the support of the Soviet Union, which the latter is rendering to it during the struggle for its inalienable rights," declared Majid Sharar, the chief of the Palestinian delegation visiting Turkmenistan, a member of the National Council of Palestine, and the general director of the Information Department of the FLO [Palestine Liberation Organization].

"We became convinced with our own eyes of the Soviet people's sincere feelings of friendship and solidarity, having visited kolkhozes and sovkhoses, as well as industrial enterprises and educational institutions in this republic."

Majid Abu Sharar expressed admiration at the achievements of Turkmenistan within the fraternal family of Soviet peoples. "You are manifesting an iron will," he noted, "in subduing a desert which occupies four-fifths of the republic's territory. Your desert area is continually being reduced. But ours is increasing."

"In our region," continued Majid Abu Sharar, "international imperialism and Israeli Zionism are predatorily plundering the natural resources. But we are confident and know firmly that the greater successes which are achieved by the Soviet republics, the stronger and more effective will be the USSR's aid to all the struggling peoples, including ours as well. The torch of our struggle will never be extinguished, we will be able to withstand any onslaught by American imperialism, Zionism, or Arab reactionaries, and we will attain our rights to self-determination and the creation of an independent Palestinian Arab state," the chief of the Palestinian delegation stated in conclusion.

Today our Palestinian comrades departed from Turkmenistan.

2384

CSO: 1800

NATIONAL

'PRAVDA' QUESTIONS LIQUIDATION OF 'UNVIABLE' VILLAGES

Donbass Experience

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Oct 80 p 3

[Article by B. Khorev, chairman of the Commission on Problems of Settling and Settlement of the Scientific and Technical Council of the USSR Ministry of Higher Educational Institutions, doctor of geographical sciences, professor, Donetskaya Oblast-Moscow: "The Volnovakha Experiment"]

[Text] Volnovakhskiy Rayon is known in the Ukraine for its advances in production and experience in the reconstruction of villages. It is not a question of individual kolkhozes or sovkhozes, but of the entire rayon as a single territorial complex. The principle is very important. As long ago as 1919 V. I. Lenin, evaluating A. I. Todorakiy's book on the experience in Soviet work in Ves'yegonskiy Uyezd, pointed to the need for a model organization of the entire, even if small, territorial unit, not of one farm or enterprise.

What does such an approach to the renovation of villages under present conditions teach us?

A wide paved highway leads to Volnovakha. Of the old highway only rows of pyramidal poplars remain here and there. Expansive fields are all around and slightly reforested hills, in the distance. And again fields and fields. Here and there they are replaced by orchards. There are white new structures in the villages.

Can one talk about Volnovakhskiy Rayon as a typical rural rayon if it is located in industrial Donetskaya Oblast? Yes, of course. Its cities--Volnovakha and Dokuchayevsk--are not big. On the other hand, in the rayon there are 76 villages and settlements, 40 kolkhozes and sovkhozes and 3 large interfarm enterprises.

In the office of Hero of Socialist Labor V. Teteryuk, first secretary of the rayon party committee, there is a big map. Projects of the so-called nonproduction sphere built in the last few years are shown on it. This is a graphic illustration of the geography of the "Volnovakha experiment." It is especially instructive as compared with other regions having the same and sometimes even greater possibilities.

For example, neighboring Mar'inskiy Rayon is also considered an advanced rayon. The construction of projects for cultural and general purposes has been carried out widely in it in the last few years. Moreover, the scale was almost the same. A total of 27 million rubles were spent on these purposes in Volnovakhskiy Rayon and 24 million, in Mar'inskiy Rayon. If the size of the rayons is taken into consideration, it will turn out that even somewhat more funds were spent per rural resident in the latter.

What were the people able to do in these rayons?

A total of 38 so-called administrative and cultural centers—one per agricultural enterprise—were built in Volnovakhskiy Rayon. Usually, such a center includes a secondary school with a system of instruction in study centers and laboratory classes, kindergartens and nurseries, a palace of culture and an administrative building. Food and industrial commodity stores, a coffee house, a domestic service combine or an overall receiving center placed under one roof are being built. Lanes and public gardens are being created and roads and sidewalks are being asphalted. In dozens of centers there are modern group hospitals. Overall construction on a compact territory is an important feature.

The administrative and cultural centers are designed to service not only the residents of a settlement, but of the entire population of the territory of a kolkhoz or sovkhoz. Every farm has free and, most importantly, regular bus communication between its center and the settlements gravitating towards it. Of course, such communication is impossible without good hard-surface motor roads. More than 800 km of such roads were built. The highway is kept in good condition in any weather.

The windows of clubs and palaces of culture shine brightly in the villages in the evenings.

"We have about a dozen circles—music, choir, drama, variety and elocution—a brass band and a puppet theater," says Z. Insherevskaya, director of the Ravnopol'skiy Palace of Culture. "Last year the choir took second place at a republic competition."

In all, in the rayon there are more than 500 amateur art groups uniting 6,000 people. Festivals of labor and patriotic song are held annually. For 10 years the people of Volnovakhskiy Rayon have held first place in the oblast in cultural-educational and mass political work. The all-Union seminar of the ministers of culture of the Union republics was held there.

The workers of Mar'inskiy Rayon have also made significant advances in cultural-general development. The example of Yelizavetovka—the central farmstead of the Okt'yabr' Kolkhoz, where experimental construction was carried out on a high professional level and in a good architectural planning style—is characteristic. Nevertheless, the principles forming the basis for the solution of social problems of the villages, as well as the results attained by the neighbors, are not the same. The experience of Volnovakhskiy Rayon seems to be more valuable. What principles are involved here?

We will mention only the main principles, which are of decisive importance for a harmonious development of rural settlements. First of all, this is a balanced approach to production and nonproduction spheres. The extensive work on the industrialization of agriculture confirms this. In the rayon seven livestock breeding complexes operate and as many are being built.

A correct orientation in the selection of the basic trends in social and cultural development is another important lesson. There was a time when a kind of classification of settlements into "promising" and "unpromising" was made in many of the country's regions, including Donbass. The people of Volnovakhskiy Rayon followed another path: Almost all the settlements are to be preserved in the future. In this case the expenditures on a premature liquidation of the sizable housing available and on resettlement will be reduced. At the same time, incentives for individual housing construction are retained. People do not have to move to "promising" settlements that have not yet been formed or built up completely.

The concentration of efforts on various reconstruction stages is the next factor. Traditionally, in many regions the funds annually allocated for the reconstruction of villages are distributed according to the following principle: Everyone must receive his share. Both the construction of housing and of projects for cultural-general purposes and civic improvements in the territory are begun right away. As a result, renovation is delayed excessively.

In Volnovakhskiy Rayon at first all the efforts were concentrated on road construction. Then the bulk of the funds was assigned for the establishment of one administrative and cultural center on each farm. At the concluding stage attention was given to projects in "ordinary" villages, to the asphaltting of sidewalks and to the planting of greenery. At all the stages of transformation of the villages the existing housing was renovated basically (85 percent) by individual builders. Houses of a total area of 45,000 square meters were built in 15 years.

The maximum utilization of the resources available in the rayon with comparatively small expenditures of state funds played an important role. Local building materials, the equipment of enterprises and the population's free voluntary labor were widely used in road building and in the establishment of public centers.

However, it was especially important that on the initiative of the rayon party committee work was undertaken by the entire rayon, not by the uncoordinated forces of individual farms, and thought was given in advance as to how construction should be carried out and in what order. The efforts of kolkhozes, sovkhoses, road builders, consumer cooperatives and city chiefs were directed toward one goal. Overall plans for the rayon's economic and social development, which made it possible to see and substantiate the prospects for both industrial and social construction, played their role there.

In contrast to Volnovakhskiy Rayon, in Mar'inskiy Rayon the reconstruction of villages is carried out in the traditional form. Hence the different results reflected primarily in the retention of the able-bodied population. Whereas 200 to 300 and sometimes 500 to 600 people annually arrive in the former from other places, many fewer arrive in the latter. At the initial stage of the experiment Volnovakhskiy Rayon was much inferior to Mar'inskiy Rayon in the basic production

indicators, but after its implementation the economy developed at much higher rates. By the end of the Ninth Five-Year Plan the people of Volnovakhskiy Rayon overtook and during the 10th Five-Year Plan surpassed their neighbors.

Volnovakhskiy Rayon, previously the most backward in Donetskaya Oblast, according to the results of economic activity is now among the first three. Starting in 1965 the yield of grain crops, vegetables and potatoes approximately doubled there and the production of meat per 100 hectares of arable land increased 2.8-fold, of milk, 2.4-fold and of eggs, 30-fold. The yield of the main grain crop--wheat--reached 35 quintals. A wide program for the specialization and cooperation of farms and production concentration is being implemented actively. In brief, such are the economic results.

Of course, not everything in the experiment of the people of Volnovakhskiy Rayon can be adopted. For example, in the past buildings for social and cultural purposes and residential houses were built, unfortunately, not according to the best projects. As yet insufficient attention is given to projects for mass sports work. A great deal should also be done in the part of communal equipment and civil improvements in settlements.

Nevertheless, the experience of the people of Volnovakhskiy Rayon in the overall socioeconomic development of rural settlements is basically instructive and useful. For the overall construction of villages two rayons in the Ukraine--Volnovakhskiy and Stryyskiy--were granted honorary diplomas at the all-Union competition held in 1978. However, there is no further progress in this matter.

It would seem that the bodies of the USSR State Committee for Civil Construction and Architecture should profoundly study this valuable experience and make it the basis for the development of rural regional planning projects, which still proceed from the admittedly false idea of division of settlements into "promising" and "unpromising." The problem of a wider dissemination of the Volnovakha experience is now the most important. This rayon has now become the basic rayon in the improvement in the skills of cultural workers in the Union republics. However, rise in culture is only one of the spheres in the reconstruction of villages. It should be a matter of the application of the entire experience, in particular in overall construction.

The republic scientific and practical conference on problems of the utilization of labor resources in agriculture held in Poltava noted in its decision a point on the need to develop an important experiment, that is, beginning from the 11th Five-Year Plan to change over to a new stage in experimental construction--overall construction per rayon in all the republic's oblasts.

It would seem that this is a sound recommendation and it should be used not only in the Ukraine, but also in the country's other regions.

Need To Examine Problem

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Oct 80 p 7

[Article by S. Deshkov, head of a department at the Moscow Institute of Hydromelioration: "What Kind of Settlement Should Be Built?"]

/Text/ The fundamental change in the system of settlement in Russia's rural nonchernozem zone has now become one of the most urgent problems. In this zone there are more than 122,000 villages and settlements, of which more than one-half have fewer than 50 residents. Such a dispersion of settlements and the small contours of agricultural land accompanying it hamper the development of productive forces--they restrain a wide use of modern equipment and do not make it possible to utilize labor resources efficiently. Small population centers have become obstacles to an improvement in the housing conditions of and cultural-general and medical services for the population. It is not accidental that on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the zone there is a great labor turnover and the outflow of young people is considerable.

Practice shows that the establishment of modern settlements is of great importance for an improvement in the state of affairs, in the demographic situation and in the way of life. In his speech at the October (1980) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said that it was necessary to solve the problem of reconstruction of villages in an energetic and thorough manner.

The renovation of villages in the nonchernozem zone is now being carried out on the basis of a concept known by the name of the "group system of settlements," whose author is the Central Scientific Research and Planning Institute of Urban Development. It is directed toward the establishment of a certain hierarchy in settlements and a multistage system of services for their residents. According to this concept every sovkhoz and kolkhoz must build its own settlement.

These recommendations were accepted by the RSFSR State Committee for Construction Affairs without a critical analysis. Leaning on them, the designers got down to work. In the proposed schemes, in essence, everything boils down to a mechanical reduction of the number of settlements. The autonomous central settlement of a kolkhoz or sovkhoz forms the basis for the new structure. Apparently, the authors of such schemes assume that nothing will be changed--for example, a sovkhoz managing its farm on 2,000 hectares of arable land must remain like this forever. The planned centers of farms greatly differ both in the number of residents and in the calculated social infrastructure.

Let us take Rostovskiy Rayon in Yaroslavl'skaya Oblast, whose long-term planning scheme was prepared by shop No 6 of the Republic State Scientific Research and Planning Institute for the Planning of Agricultural Construction. A settlement is to be built there for each of the 24 sovkhozes and settlements of departments, on six of them. The population is from 450 to 3,000. Such a diversity could be explained by the different number of sovkhozes. But this is not so. Perhaps planners take into consideration the characteristics of their economic activity? But then how to explain the fact that for the Sovkhoz imeni Lenin, which will specialize in the production of chicory and has 8,440 hectares of agricultural land, including 3,315 hectares of arable land, a settlement for 620 people is to be built and for the Krasnyy Kholm Sovkhoz, which has 3,193 hectares of agricultural land, including 1,595 hectares of arable land and the same specialization, for 1,550 people? Apparently, the planners were guided not so much by real facts as by far-fetched variants. For the majority of new settlements the number of residents has

not been substantiated scientifically. For example, no calculations can provide support for a settlement for 3,000 people for the Vasil'kovskiy Sovkhoz and the proposal to almost double the rayon's rural population does not lend itself to an explanation at all. After all, in this case there would be only about 6 hectares of agricultural land per able-bodied sovkhoz resident. From where can so many people be taken?

There is no basis for blaming only the authors of the long-term plans for all the absurdities. To this day the USSR State Committee for Civil Construction and Architecture does not have a single method of developing regional planning schemes under the conditions of the nonchernozem zone. The development of projects is not preceded by scientifically substantiated models, which would take into consideration social, demographic and other aspects, the process of production concentration, agroindustrial integration and the development of interfarm cooperation.

Meanwhile, the party sets the task of transforming villages into urban-type settlements. The old village should be replaced by residential centers with a developed social infrastructure, which could maximally meet the population's growing material and spiritual needs.

Perspective and foresight are not sufficiently taken into consideration now. For example, in Vologodskaya Oblast foundations have been laid for a relatively large settlement, Fetinino, for 2,511 residents for the new Kubinskiy Dairy and Vegetable Sovkhoz. However, its social infrastructure is by no means the infrastructure that could have met man's modern needs. Such an important facility as a school will be small, without parallel classes and, therefore, will have teachers holding more than one appointment, which is inevitable in such cases. The people will not receive a polyclinic, but a dispensary. What is designated as a domestic service combine will, in fact, become a receiving center. Provision has not been made for such children's institutions as a house of pioneers, music and sports schools and others. The planners rightly answer that there is no reason to build such facilities--the settlement is sparsely populated.

Problems are also solved in a similar way in sovkhoz settlements in Rostovskiy Rayon, where the number of residents is 2,300 to 3,000. In those designed for 450 to 1,200 people it is not at all possible to solve a number of social problems. More than 80 percent of the settlements are designed precisely for such a number of residents. The multistage service system will hardly help. The people will sensibly advise its authors to walk on these "stages" themselves. It turns out that any autonomous settlement of a farm will always be too small to have a developed social infrastructure.

When the regional planning schemes are analyzed, one very important problem, in practice, not soluble within the boundaries of an autonomous settlement, is disclosed. This is provision for year-round employment for the entire able-bodied population. In the same Rostovskiy Rayon, if the plan for the construction of 24 sovkhoz settlements with a total population of 50,000 is realized, a minimum of one-fourth of the residents will face this problem. It turns out that the Yaroslavgiprozem Institute determined the urban forming population according to the average annual need of sovkhozes for manpower, including the manpower that can be employed on a farm for 1½ to 2 months. Apparently, however, it is difficult

to seriously hope that many will agree to live in the new settlements without a guarantee for year-round work. This problem is already felt in a number of central farmsteads. For example, many young people from the Kudinovo Settlement in Kaluzhskaya Oblast found work in the city of Maloyaroslavets, although it is not near.

Is there an alternative for the autonomous settlement? In our opinion, yes. Apparently, the way out is in a settlement that would synthesize residents engaged in agriculture with industrial workers. This is a more advantageous way of solving the problem and it meets the interests of the people and the state. The favorable circumstance that there are many workers' settlements and few cities in the zone should be utilized. The farmsteads of kolkhozes and sovkhozes should be attached to them and, where this is impossible, new consolidated settlements for two or three farms should be built on a cooperative basis.

When kolkhoz and sovkhoz farmsteads are combined with workers' settlements or cooperative construction, it is possible to sharply reduce the expenditures on the establishment of a social infrastructure. However, it will be well developed. Both a big school for 800 to 1,200 students and all the necessary out-of-school children's institutions will appear. For example, in Rostovskiy Rayon in Yaroslavskaya Oblast with the new approach it would have been necessary to build 5 or 6 houses of culture and clubs, not 24, as is proposed, but, on the other hand, real ones; 5 or 6 modern sports complexes, not 24 primitive structures for athletes. The problem of improving the system of public health could also be solved -- polyclinics are available to a large settlement. It becomes possible to attract skilled personnel to it. A number of farms in Rostovskiy Rayon could form cooperatives with such workers' settlements as Semibratovo, Porechye-Rybnoye and Petrovskoye.

The attitude of the rural residents themselves to a specific type of settlement is interesting. The survey by questionnaire conducted by a sociological group of the Moscow Institute of Hydromelioration in a number of rayons in the nonchernozem zone, among them Klepikovskiy, Ryazanskoy and Rostovskiy in Yaroslavskaya Oblast, showed that 96 percent of the specialists and educational, public health and cultural workers give preference either to a big settlement with a developed social infrastructure, or to a well-organized village located near a city. A total of 152 out of the 187 workers on the Rostov Ovoshchevod and Makarovskiy sovkhozes questioned this spring preferred to live in the village of Semibratovo, not on farmsteads.

Of course, it is difficult to go against traditions and against the deep-rooted idea that every kolkhoz and sovkhoz should have "its" settlement. However, life forces us to revise certain views. It is necessary to closely connect practice with science. In general, the solution of the problem of where and how to build new settlements or develop existing ones should begin from sociologists and demographers. The models created by them should serve as the initial documents.

The nonchernozem zone is being renovated in people's interest. Everything that is being done there will serve for many years and will be modern, convenient and beautiful.

Comments on Articles

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Oct 80 p 7

[Comments by V. Posokhov]

[Text] The article published today raises important problems concerning the renovation of villages and their social development and discusses the measures that should be implemented. The author continues the discussion begun in a number of other PRAVDA articles, in particular in B. Khorev's article "The Volnovakha Experiment" on the instructive experience in rural housing and cultural-general construction in Donetskaya Oblast published on 20 October. The formulation of these pressing problems is especially urgent in the light of the decisions of the October (1980) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, which set the task of the further reconstruction of villages and of the utilization of the available capabilities for this.

The problems raised by these authors are not simple and it is difficult to give one answer to them. The characteristics of and differences among the country's many regions—both climatic and those connected with the population's density, national traditions and living conditions—are too great. However, there are immutable demands, which a modern village must meet—maximum housing conveniences and good domestic, medical, trade and cultural services for residents. Construction plans on the territory of administrative rayons and farms should be strictly coordinated with the realization of these demands.

The authors of these articles made a number of interesting proposals. At the same time, some of them, apparently, need a more serious substantiation and an overall consideration of the interests of development of both production and social-cultural spheres. Putting the concern for man in the forefront and trying to ensure the fullest satisfaction of his needs, it is important to see all this work in a constant connection with how our main wealth—land—is utilized. Is there no danger that, by concentrating the population in large settlements, somewhere it will be diverted from remote land? After all, such cases already exist. When creating favorable living conditions for peasants, thought should be given to the most efficient settlement system.

Another important problem should also be discussed. Some matters could become completely superfluous or be of lesser importance if all population centers could be connected with reliable roads. Their wide construction is one of the immediate tasks. In general, the establishment of a new settlement system, liquidation of small land contours and road building are a triune process. Ignoring any of its components will inevitably be reflected in the efficiency of production and in the living conditions of farmers.

There is another important aspect of this matter. Although it is a question of settling residents of small villages in big ones, it seems to us that this should not imply the liquidation of so-called "unpromising" centers and, especially, an acceleration of this process. Many readers of this newspaper rightly believe that, in general, it is time to give up the division of villages into "promising" and

"unpromising." Today this is an unproductive and, at the same time, damaging gradation. It is of no benefit to the development of agriculture and to the retention of workers, primarily young people, in villages. When improving living conditions in villages, we should not prematurely destroy what has already been created.

In publishing the articles on problems of rural construction and regional planning, the editors present the problems of transformation of the rural way of life to the readers for discussion.

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NATIONAL

EXCERPTS FROM CHERNENKO BOOK HIGHLIGHTED

Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian 2 Nov 80 p 2

[Excerpts from book "Voprosy Raboty Partinogo i Gosudarstvennogo Apparata" [Problems of the Work of the Party and State Apparatus] by CPSU CC Politburo Member and CPSU CC Secretary Comrade K. U. Chernenko, Politizdat, 1980]

[Text] The positive processes taking place in the life of the Georgian party organization and the results of its coordinated political and organizational work are becoming increasingly crystallized in the republic's economic achievements.

This is especially manifest during preparations for the 26th CPSU Congress, the home stretch of the 10th Five-Year Plan. All of this has been achieved, of course, through enhancement of the party organizations' fighting efficiency and communists' influence and vanguard role among the masses, through strict requirements imposed on strengthened party and state discipline, and through constant party concern for the selection and placement of leadership cadres.

All this, undoubtedly, has evoked wide response both at home and abroad. It is heartily supported and responded to in a businesslike manner by well-wishers. Of special interest is the scientific, creative approach to current problems of party development, which helps and enriches practice.

KOMUNISTI's readers know that Politizdat in Moscow recently published CPSU CC Politburo Member and CPSU CC Secretary Comrade K. U. Chernenko's book "Problems of the Work of the Party and State Apparatus" (KOMUNISTI 5 October 1980).

Today we offer our readers excerpts from the book dealing with the experience of the Georgian party organization and its Central Committee. Publishing it before the party conferences, we believe, will help delegates to evaluate the reporting period correctly, examine critically the work that has been done, and map out practical tasks for the future.

In recent years, a substantial positive shift has taken place in Georgia's party organizations with respect to perfecting party work and improving the performance of the party and state apparatus. The measures carried out by the republic's party committees and all party members to implement the CPSU CC's decree on the Tbilisi Gorkom have yielded tangible positive fruit. Today the GCP CC, many city and rayon committees, and their apparatuses are creatively searching for the most effective ways to resolve vital and complex economic and social problems, taking a scientific approach to problems of economic administration, getting the broad party aktiv and the working masses involved in examining political and economic tasks, and working out measures of perfecting administration. GCP CC members, candidate members, and audit commission members are constantly working at full capacity. They are themselves showing active involvement and creative initiative in resolving problems of the republic's economic and cultural development, taking part in preparing and conducting report-election meetings in the primary party organizations, Central Committee plenums, and party and party-economic aktiv meetings, heading commissions, and giving reports at meetings of worker collectives on various political, economic, and social matters. Not a single vital social or political measure is carried out in the republic without the active participation of the elective party aktiv.

It was that way in 1977, when the GCP CC implemented a number of measures to boost the production of livestock products. A message to all the working people of the Georgian SSR, "Increased Meat Production Is Everybody's Business," analyzed the state of this vital sector of agriculture and mapped out ways to find unutilized reserves. The situation demanded that the republic's party organization aktiv act as the direct organizer of local efforts. Accordingly, the GCP CC Plenum drafted a decree on this matter and sent it to all the members of the republic party organization's central elective organs. They were asked to express their opinions promptly concerning the organizational measures mapped out in the draft and ways of involving the entire Central Committee membership in the work. It was decided to send to the rayons and cities groups of specialists and party, soviet, and economic workers headed by Central Committee members and candidate members and CC Audit Commission members. The purpose of these groups was to thoroughly and comprehensively analyze the farms' capabilities for boosting the production and marketing of livestock products. Such groups were formed and sent out. The results demonstrated that their efforts were very fruitful: substantial unutilized reserves for the production and marketing of livestock products were found both in the social sector and on private farms, in the cooperative organizations, and in the processing industry enterprises. All of this made it possible to take on obligations higher than the plan called for, but fully realistic, with respect to meat, milk, eggs, and wool sales to the state and increased livestock herds. The GCP CC directed the republic's government, departments, and organizations--specifically, GSSR Gosplan and the Agriculture Ministry--to handle the drafting of practicable, intensive plans to boost the production and sale of livestock products to the state and increase numbers of livestock and poultry of all types, taking account of the actual capabilities of each rayon and each farm.

And we may cite another example. The GCP CC held a regular plenum in 1980 to discuss "The Work of the GCP CC Buro and Secretariat in 1979." The plenum opened directly with debates, because the report on the performance of the buro and the secretariat had already been sent to Central Committee members and candidate members, audit commission members, and all oblast, city, and rayon committees.

Practically the whole republic elective party aktiv had studied the Central Committee's material thoroughly and in detail and discussed it locally. As a result of this kind of organization, several thousand persons actually took part in the debate. The GCP CC received more than a thousand specific proposals, recommendations and criticisms on how to improve CC buro and secretariat performance. These are being analyzed, summarized, and utilized in practical work.

Regular involvement of elective party organ members in organizational work has also enhanced the authority of the elective organs. They have stronger ties with party members and nonmembers. Besides developing the democratic principles of party work, this also serves to enhance official responsibility and strengthen executive discipline. By involving broad segments of the aktiv in resolving problems, after all, the GCP CC is at the same time strengthening their responsibility for the concrete results of their work. For this purpose, it is now standard practice for workers to deliver reports and notices in the buro and the secretariat, and a constant search is underway for new, creative forms of control.

The Tbilisi Gorkom's practice is also worth noting. The gorkom's plenum is generally preceded by thorough, timely preparatory work participated in not only by the party aktiv but also by the broad working masses. This is greatly facilitated by the complete openness of preparations for the plenums. In early 1978, for example, the city's communists and working people already knew that the gorkom had scheduled a plenum for the first quarter to discuss the matter of improving party supervision over cadre selection, placement, and indoctrination in accordance with the requirements of the 25th CPSU Congress. Scheduled in the second quarter was a plenum with the agenda "Further Improvement of Ideological-Indoctrination Work In Accordance With the Decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and Efforts of the City's Party Organizations to Enhance the Effectiveness of the Integrated Approach to This Matter." The gorkom plenum scheduled for the third quarter was to discuss the report of the Executive Committee of the Tbilisi Soviet of People's Deputies concerning the state of the city's housing inventory operations and measures to improve them. Being informed about coming gorkom plenums, the city's communists and workers are given the opportunity to express their opinions and make suggestions about the issues involved. These suggestions are examined by special commissions in charge of preparing plenum materials. One of their tasks is to see to it that these opinions are publicized in the press. This broad openness gets the city's communists and the public at large involved. The gorkom and the editors of newspapers receive hundreds of letters about it from the working people. All letters are carefully studied.

Party apparatus workers are thus clearly and convincingly shown that openness, systematic and objective information from above and below, guards them against ill-considered, subjective decisions, creates conditions favorable to working out well-substantiated and realistic recommendations, and brings out that which is of greatest concern to communists and the public at large at any given moment. The GCP CC, the Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, and many other gorkoms and raykoms have successfully functioning information centers, outfitted with all the latest equipment, to collect, systematize, and analyze all the information the party committee receives concerning organizational-party and ideological work as well as party supervision of the economy.

Party committee workers make efficient use of the summarized data in their personal dealings with party members and nonmembers, in meetings with the party aktiv and creative exchanges of ideas, in making use of various forms of political and economic instruction, and so on. Many party committees have found through experience that methodical gathering, processing, and analysis of information and systematic application of its findings serve to enhance the quality of the party apparatus workers' efforts, help them distinguish primary matters from secondary considerations, and develop a creative approach to their job.

In 1979, a GCP CC Plenum discussed "The Tasks of the Republic's Party Organization With Respect To Improving Cadre Training, Placement, and Indoctrination from the Standpoint of Long-Term Economic and Social Development of the Georgian SSR." The plenum's materials and decree evoked broad and positive response among the republic's communists and exerted a direct influence on the performance of the administrative apparatus. Many problems were raised at the plenum: rational utilization of labor resources, training and upgrading of cadres and specialists in the mass professions, work with leadership cadres, and the style and methods of party, soviet, economic and social activities. The fact was noted that it had become necessary in the republic to state the cadre problem in just that way and examine it in an integrated manner.

The plenum analyzed cadre work on the basis of the Leninist principles of the CPSU's cadre policy and the CPSU CC's decrees concerning the Georgian SSR's party organization. Since the decrees were passed, many sectors of the republic's party, state, and economic work have been strengthened with politically mature and morally straight people dedicated to the party; the quality composition of leadership cadres has been improved substantially. This has been vitally important to achieve positive changes in the social-economic potential and economic profile as well as Georgia's social-political life. It was noted, nevertheless, that the matter of cadre work in the republic remained an urgent one. This was due primarily to the fact that it was necessary to overcome the republic's still-substantial lag behind average all-union indicators in terms of overall economic and industrial development and to solve the big economic and social problems mapped out in the CPSU CC and USSR Council of Ministers decrees for the 10th and 11th five year plans in the Georgian SSR. A more general factor in the problem's urgency is that in an age of scientific-technical revolution any leader's intellectual, business, and moral qualities have an ever greater impact on the development of productive forces and are reflected in matter and substance.

In cadre selection it has become standard practice in the GCP CC to make a detailed study of the business and political qualities of persons recommended for nomenklatura posts. Great importance is attached to references, which must include a thoroughly substantiated, profound, principled, objective, and honest evaluation of the worker. Remarks, suggestions, and wishes expressed during consultation and appointment to the post go into the file of the nomenklatura worker.

The plenum focused particular attention on shortcomings in cadre training and evaluation, because the mechanism for seeking out and selecting the kind of persons who have the necessary leadership qualities does not always work efficiently enough. Formalism and bureaucratism have become entrenched in many departments, and mistakes are frequent. It was emphasized in this regard that it is essential to work systematically with reserve cadres, to systematically instruct, train, and

retrain people and test them in practical jobs in order to keep a constant reserve of people who, through their creed, professional training, and moral-intellectual qualities have the ability to take on new and more complex tasks.

The plenum noted that the present system for upgrading leadership cadres in Georgia lacks coordination, specialization, and precise planning. Its material-technical base is extremely weak. All too few highly qualified specialists are called upon to serve as teachers. The success rate and practical results of the instruction are not properly controlled. The plenum discussed a scheme for a unified all-republic system of cadre qualifications upgrading. To coordinate this effort an inter-departmental council was set up under the GCP CC, its main operating body being the Republic Institute of National Economy Administration. Republic-wide problem-theme conference-seminars are held to disseminate party and economic leadership practice and experience. Schools of advanced experience have been opened in the leading organizations. Measures have been implemented to exercise more management and control over independent cadre study. It is essential, in this connection, that leadership personnel constantly study Marxist-Leninist theory and take direct part in propaganda and indoctrination work. The plenum pointed out in particular that it is essential to develop work attitudes in terms of the state's interests and root out narrowly departmental and parochial tendencies. A leader must be able to foresee the social, political, and indoctrinational consequences of any decisions, ensure the unity of economic and political work, take more time to analyze what is going on in men's hearts and minds, and study their opinions, hopes, and aspirations. The report and the various speeches focused attention on cases where criticism is acknowledged verbally, promises are made, but shortcomings persist. And the following widespread attitude toward criticism was noted: neither I, my enterprise, nor my department were mentioned; consequently, it has nothing to do with us. We must learn, it was noted at the plenum, to distinguish between real and pretended diligence, to strengthen individual cadre responsibility in every way, to demand that people resolve problems in their assigned sector before getting instructions from above.

A thorough analysis was made of the work style and methods of the republic's central leadership organs and the party leadership's supervision of the work of the soviet and economic organs and social organizations. Plenum participants cited instances where some raykom buros were dealing only with purely economic decisions and failing to define the political line and the role of the party organizations in implementing them. Bureaucratism and formalism have yet to be rooted out of the activities of many of them, including party organizations. This is attested, in particular, by a steady increase in the number of workers' repeat requests received by local organs.

The GSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was urged to draw up a long-term program encompassing all aspects of the activities of the Soviets of People's Deputies, designed to activate the soviets in economic construction, resolving problems of social-economic development, meeting the growing daily needs and demands of the people, and carrying out the voters' mandate. The Council of Ministers was urged to exercise greater influence on the state of affairs not only directly but also via the ministries, state committees, and local soviet organs, and to work purposefully to enhance their responsibility in carrying out their duties, exercising the considerable rights and powers conferred on them by law in economic and social-cultural development, in strengthening state discipline, and in completely rooting out narrowly departmental and parochial tendencies.

Plenum participants noted that in recent years the work style of the GCP CC buro and secretariat has been characterized by unremitting struggle against even the slightest deviation from Leninist norms of party life and principles of party leadership, also by true collegiality and a respect for public opinion. The buro and the secretariat have made standard practice of the free and frank exchange of ideas, an atmosphere of comradely exactingness and mutual responsibility. The results of the work of the buro and the secretariat are regularly summarized every year at CC plenums. In addition to evaluating their performance, the highlights of the coming year's program of action are mapped out. The CC has set up commissions and councils to deal with various aspects of activity. When necessary, special task forces will be created in the Central Committee as well as the Council of Ministers and other organs to organize and control the implementation of the most important decisions of the CPSU CC. The preparation of subjects to be discussed at CC plenums involves hundreds and thousands of people, who study the opinions of the broad masses on the most effective ways to resolve the problems concerned. For the purpose they appeal to the working people through the mass media; buro members and CC officials meet with representatives of various segments of the population and worker collectives. In addition, it has become standard practice to study public opinion via special programs. Increased numbers of party and state organ decrees and more and more materials from plenums, sessions, and conferences are being published. Substantial positive shifts have also been made in the matter of information from below. At the same time, the plenum set forth the task of strengthening and developing the positive tendencies in the work of the GCP CC buro, secretariat, and apparatus, and further perfecting the work style and methods of the soviet and economic organs and social organizations in accordance with the requirements of the 25th CPSU Congress.

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CSO: 1813

NATIONAL

CHERNENKO BOOK'S FOCUS ON GEORGIAN EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED

Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian 2 Nov 80 p 2

[Article by Tbilisi Oktyabr'skiy Rayon First Secretary A. Azirov: "Broad, Comprehensive"]

[Text] Reading Comrade K. U. Chernenko's book you can see how deeply, comprehensively, and broadly he has examined the most important aspects of party and soviet construction in our country. His systematicity and historical accuracy, his grasp of the subject, clearly explain the processes involved in the creation, development, and strengthening of the Soviet Union's Communist Party apparatus, the problems involved in the state shaping of the socialist republic, and its vital importance to the building of socialism in our country.

A feeling of excitement and justified pride is evoked by those sections of the book describing V. I. Lenin's titanic theoretical and practical activities in the creation of our party and state apparatus.

Another major virtue of the book is that it convincingly elucidates the work of the CPSU CC, the staunch continuator and organizer of that vital cause.

The work devotes substantial space to the establishment of Leninist work style and methods in the activities of party organs, including the Georgian party organization, with respect to unswerving observance and development of Leninist norms of party life. Summarizing the rich experience of our party and all its primary links, the author states that the Leninist style is the party's powerful tool in the struggle for communism. A scientific approach, a unity of theory and practice, revolutionary elan, good organization and diligence, collective party and state leadership, contact with and reliance on the masses, proper organization of control and executive verification, and cadre work--these are crucial factors in leadership and administration, outlined broadly by the author. And if we are to be successful, the author says, we must comply with the Leninist work style accurately and with meticulous honesty, we must reject formalism and bureaucracy, ostentation and pretense, meetingitis and paperomania, and a pseudoscientific approach to the detriment of actual organizational work with people. This requirement was once more strongly expressed in Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's speech at the October 1980 CPSU CC Plenum, which broadly spelled out our party's program of action on all fronts in the near and far future.

It is appropriate that K. U. Chernenko's work has appeared at this time, during a period of intensive preparations for the 26th CPSU Congress, for it deals with basic trends in the forms and techniques of leadership in party and soviet work. It is replete with ideas, and teaches us to be involved and dedicated to the struggle for the building of communism. It calls us to new achievements for the sake of this grand cause. The book will not only help us to gain a deeper understanding of the Soviet social and state structure, it will also serve as a creative means for perfecting the party and state apparatus under developed socialism and overcoming shortcomings.

We are completely justified, therefore, in saying that K. U. Chernenko's work will become an essential reference for the entire party and soviet aktiv, and undoubtedly it will also soon appear in Georgian.

We deeply acknowledge the great importance of K. U. Chernenko's work, and we have already mapped out and are implementing a number of measures to ensure that it is studied by Oktyabr'skiy Rayon's party and soviet apparatus personnel, primary party organization secretaries, and other members of the aktiv. It will help all of us to prepare better and provide a worthy greeting for the upcoming congress.

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CSO: 1813

NATIONAL

CHERNENKO BOOK'S ECONOMIC ASPECTS PRAISED

Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian 2 Nov 80 p 2

[Article by V. Melkadze, corresponding member of the GSSR Academy of Sciences and GSSR State Prize Laureate: "A Book on Current Problems"]

[Text] CPSU CC Politburo Member and CPSU CC Secretary K. Chernenko's book "Problems of the Work of the Party and State Apparatus" is a very interesting and useful work. Studying its contents and text convinces the reader that we are dealing here with multiaspectual research which successfully combines problems of theory and practice, history and logic, and an analysis of the Leninist scientific heritage and the postulates of party documents of the subsequent period.

The work presents a step-by-step elucidation of the formation, development, and strengthening of the Soviet Union's Leninist Communist Party apparatus in accordance with the stages of the party's beginnings and the periods following the revolution. The book devotes a special subsection to the formation of the apparatus of the world's first socialist republic led by the Communist Party and great Lenin personally, the development of the party and soviet apparatus in the process of forming the first socialist society on the basis of V. I. Lenin's legacy. A special chapter presents a scientific summary of the latest experience in regard to the creative development of a Leninist style in party organ activities. The final chapter presents a detailed examination of problems of cadre policy and administration at the present stage, under mature socialism, as well as today's urgent tasks of perfecting the work of the party and state apparatus in light of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

The book provides a profound analysis of the multifaceted content of the activities of the party organs and their cadres and the variety of forms of development on the basis of Leninist principles and traditions. It should also be noted that the work utilizes and analyzes a large number of documents never published before.

As an economist, I am particularly interested in the book's special section "Economy--the Main Arena of Activity." It elucidates the Leninist principles of party supervision of the national economy, the forms and methods involved, and the main current problems of economic management and administration under the new conditions of economic development.

Comrade K. Chernenko's book will be studied with great interest by the broad party aktiv, propaganda cadres, students in the party education system and the higher schools, and anyone else who is concerned with this complex and so far little-studied aspect of social life.

REGIONAL

WESTERN INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL ASIA STUDIED

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 3 Dec 80 p 1

[Article: "An All-Union Scholarly Conference"]

[Text] On 2 December work was begun in Ashkhabad by the All-Union Scholarly Conference, devoted to the 60th anniversary of the rout of foreign military intervention and the termination of the Civil War in Central Asia. It was organized by the scholarly councils of the USSR Academy of Sciences dealing with the complex problem of the "Great October Socialist Revolution" and the problem of the "History of Historical Scholarship," along with their Central Asian sections and the Institute of History imeni Sh. Batyrov of the Turkmen SSR Academy of Sciences.

The conference was opened by introductory remarks from the secretary of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan Central Committee, M. M. Mollayeva.

The following reports were delivered at the conference: "The Collapse of the British Military Intervention in Central Asia" by Academician of the Turkmen SSR Academy of Sciences Sh. Tashliyev, "The Leninist Concept of the Civil War and Intervention in the USSR" by Doctor of Historical Scholarship, Professor V. P. Naumov (Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee), "Some Theoretical Questions of Party Leadership in the Country's Defense" by Doctor of Historical Scholarship, Professor P. A. Golub (Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CPSU Central Committee), "The Status and Tasks of Studying the History of the Civil War in Kazakhstan" by Academician of the Kazakh SSR Academy of Sciences B. A. Tulepbayev, and others.

The conference participants also listened to a number of scholarly communications by scholars from Turkmenistan, the RSFSR, and other Union republics.

Taking part in the opening of this conference were the deputy chairperson of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers, R. A. Bazarova, and the chief of the Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan Central Committee, Ye. Ovlyakuliyev. (Turkmeninform).

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CSO: 1800

REGIONAL

KAZAKH PROPAGANDIST ON "ISLAM QUESTION"

Alma-Ata QAZAQSTAN KOMMUNIYSI in Kazakh No 11, 1980 pp 36-41

[Article by A. Artem'ev, vice-director of the Propaganda and Agitation Section of the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Communist Party: "Current Tasks of Atheist Propaganda"]

[Text] It is made clear in the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee "On Further Improvement of Ideological and Political Education Work," a resolution which sets up the program presently in force for the communist education of the workers, that the main focuses of the ideological work of party organizations will be education of the broad masses of people in the communist view of the fatherland, in devotion to and labor for communism and in a communist view of social property, while raising their consciousness and activism, and strengthening the responsibility of communist and komсомol members in the struggle against blind religion, as atheist propaganda is carried out systematically.

Taking the decisions of the 25th Party Congress and the resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee on questions of ideology as guidance, Kazakhstan party committees have, in recent times, devoted special attention to strengthening further scientific and atheist propaganda while improving the work of providing atheistic education to the workers. The forms and methods of work in this area are being improved. Questions related to the improvement of atheist education among the workers are being discussed frequently at the conference of oblast, city and regional party committee bureaus and secretariats, and at the general meetings of communists, and superior experiences and methods are being widely propagated.

Atheist propaganda, which can influence the formation of a scientific world view, lofty idealism and humanitarianism among the Soviet people, has become a component part of communist education and ideological work. Thus, it is proper that atheist propaganda be carried out in strict unity with labor, idealism-political and humanitarian education, taking the peculiarities of the various groups of workers into account.

At the present time there are particular reasons for giving special attention to the improvement of atheist education, in connection with the problem of advancing the work of idealism-political education to a new level. First of all, the ideological struggle in the international arena has become very delicate and the attack of anti-communist propaganda on Marxism-Leninism has intensified. To this

end imperialists have employed various unbelievable slanders and even religious ideas and precepts. This is directed intentionally at drawing the attention of the people to religion. However, we must ruthlessly expose this villany of bourgeois propagandists and anti-communist degenerates, who harbor an anti-Soviet ideological rigidity and hide behind a veil of religion. Likewise, apologists for imperialism and anti-Sovietism have invented an "Islam Question" to destabilize the international situation and throw international unity into disarray, and are endeavoring to set Islam against socialism. Such actions must be completely eliminated.

Secondly, reformists have begun to be included within religious movements. In our country, the pace of the social and scientific and technological revolutions and efforts in the area of party propaganda and atheist education, have influenced this. Everywhere the propagandists of religion have taken note of the changes taking place in social and economic life and in the minds of the workers, and it has become clearly evident that a renewal has begun in the various kinds of ideology connected with religion. It seems as if young people are now attempting to take over the places of the old believers in the Christian and Moslem religions. To be sure, a lot is being done in this area.

Thirdly, the struggle against views favorable to religion is being carried out well. In his time, V. I. Lenin considered the struggle against religion to be one sector of party operations. Thus the careful management of effort to provide atheist education to the workers became established as a worthy task of party organizations.

All of this demands that party organizations and workers in the ideological area, organize, in a well-founded manner, and carry out, in a sophisticated fashion, atheistic education among the workers. In this area the question of the training of atheistic cadres looms large. The scientific atheism divisions of Marxism-Leninism universities play a major role in the training of atheist cadres. Last year more than 1,000 persons studied in them, raised their theoretical knowledge and sharpened propagandistic and lecture skills. There are nearly 10,000 students in the 84 people's scientific atheism universities now operating regularly in Kazakhetan. Scientific atheism universities in the oblasts of Aqtobe, Alma-Ata, Zhambil and Taldiqorghan are operating systematically. Nevertheless, although the possibility for doing so exists, such universities have never, up to the present day, been organized in the oblasts of Shighis Qazaqstan and Kokshetav. Moreover, only a few scientific atheism universities have been organized in the oblasts of Guvr'ev, Zhezqasghan, Oral and Soltustik Qazaqstan. This sort of thing, to be sure, is unsatisfactory.

Let us go into detail on deficiencies:

In the last 4 years almost 2,000 persons have completed the scientific atheism divisions of Marxism-Leninism universities. However, the majority of them failed to take up atheism work. One reason for this is that any individual that comes along, without regard to aptitude, is enrolled in scientific atheism divisions to fill out the number of students. In our view only persons who are knowledgeable, have a great deal of experience in propaganda work and show an aptitude for scientific atheism work should be selected for enrollment in these divisions. Whether

it is lecturers for organizing atheist propaganda, or agitators that are needed right now for carrying out various kinds of work among religious believers, will have to be determined.

To be sure, the work of atheism agitators is not being organized properly in some oblasts. The majority have the title of agitators but do not actually perform the work. Workers of medical, education, pre-school age and cultural enlightenment departments, and of the mass communications and propaganda media have not been aimed in the proper direction in developing methods for work against religion. In particular, a large number of Soviet, labor union and komsomol organizations have not been dealing with the question properly.

Moreover, it is necessary that party committees adequately utilize graduates of social science programs of higher education institutions, and of Marxism-Leninism universities, for the selection, education and placement of atheism cadres, in particular. It is proper that the sharpening of the propagandistic skills of atheism cadres and the raising of their theoretical knowledge be soundly organized. Likewise, the construction of atheism sections for those in political reporting would not be excessive.

In particular, it is necessary that cadres within this area be well founded in Marxism-Leninism, armed with atheist theory and sufficiently knowledgeable concerning the bases of time tested religious precepts. This demands an expansion in the role of scientific atheism, ethics and aesthetics chairs of the Kazakhstan SSR Academy of Sciences, and of the Kazakh and Qaraghandi state universities in raising the levels of the theoretical and practical lessons taught in Marxism-Leninism and scientific atheism universities, and in solving problems of the atheism discipline. In our view, the time has come to settle the issue of opening special scientific atheism sections in philosophical and legal institutes. In short, it is necessary to raise the force of atheism propaganda and ideological work up to present needs.

The pivot of education work is the work collective. The work collective is the foundation cell for communist education of the workers and for atheist propaganda. The practices of Soviet citizens in social work and in communist construction are founded on this, and fine qualities such as propensity for proper organization, collectivism, friendship and mutual fraternal aid, the unity of word and deed and an activist stance in life are instilled through the work collective. Thus, party organizations have realized that the work collective is a focus for various ideological work carried out among the workers.

There are now in the Kazakhstan republic more than 28,000 work collectives. The majority are raising production to new heights and are playing a conspicuous role in providing idealism-political education to the workers. One of them is the Alma-Ata House Construction Combine. In it are representatives of many of the nationalities of our country, working productively. Elegant houses and buildings constructed by them are encountered in many of the cities of the Kazakhstan republic. The many benefits achieved by the enthusiasm of the combine collective for work is the basis of its accomplishments. Thereby the collective's plans for economic development have been carried out systematically. This has had a

notable influence upon the carrying out of labor, idealism-political and humanitarian education among the workers in a sophisticated manner.

However, in nearly 8,000 small collectives, such as restaurant, store, post office and studio collectives in the republic, the organization of labor and idealism-political education work is not being carried out as it should. Thus, such collectives are in need of the particular oversight of party committees. It would be proper, whether general, large scale collectives are in question, or small collectives, that either a council be established for atheism education in all of them, or someone appointed to take responsibility for providing atheism education to the workers.

Improvement of the atheism moral-psychological situation in work collectives is very important for atheism education among the workers. The work is always fruitful in a collective that has properly organized the situation for atheism education. In this way, those working in a collective and believing in religion, or drawn to religion, come to recognize the errors of their religious views through the influence of the idealism-political education work of collective members. Thus, in carrying out ideological work and atheism education projects, it must be, in particular, strictly remembered that there must be sound organization in such a way so as to not insult the believers in religion.

Experience has shown that if atheism propaganda is carried out in the families of collective members, where the workers live, its impact lasts. It is useful, in particular, as atheism propaganda is carried out among the houseridden, pensioners and cripples, who for reason of family circumstance, health or age are isolated from work and social life, to bring about their broad participation in social work and in atheism education. It would be a good idea to rely on commissioners and deputies of local soviets, and activists of social organizations, in this connection.

Individual work, on a one to one basis, should not be forgotten in particular as an excellent method for the reeducation of believers in religion. This is a method tested by practice. However, it is not an easy method. It requires excellent knowledge, experience, personability and stability on the part of the atheism activist. It is necessary that such persons be very knowledgeable in pedagogy, psychology, scientific materialism, and with respect to the various kinds of religion and their peculiarities. Believers in religion cannot be taken as a unity. Among them are all kinds, such as those making offering of a few scattered drops from their cups to God, those believing in the omnipotence of God, those striving to adhere to religion as a sanctioned tradition in their families, and those unsure whether they believe in religion or not. It is the task of the atheism agitator to fully understand them all and find out what is at the root of the beliefs of each. Only thereby can the atheism agitator accomplish his work productively.

It is necessary that party organizations aid in the area of very complete exploitation of the resources of cultural enlightenment departments to bring about the development of atheism propaganda among the workers. In fact, however, except for atheism lectures by "knowledge" societies, carried out now and then,

village clubs and libraries stand, as a rule, outside of the work. Evenings and debates devoted to atheism themes and presentations of individuals who were once believers in religion but later recognized the error of their ways are held only here and there. Even in the Sighis Qazaqstan oblast, which once carried out worthwhile work in this area, mass culture projects devoted to the atheism education of the workers have fallen off greatly in recent years. In fact, the number of lectures given on atheism themes declined 10 percent last year and the number of listeners two fold and the theme has been unable to find a permanent place in the repertory of arts collectives and in the work of motor clubs.

Medical workers fulfill a major role in the struggle against religious views and superstitious survivals. They work in close contact with the broad masses of the people and with the sick. Thus, medical workers, who form the first line in the struggle against superstitious survivals and popular religious practices, must aid in propagandizing scientific and technological achievements. Atheist propaganda must, in cooperation not only with workers of public health education offices, but also with directors and specialist workers of hospitals, dispensaries, child and female consultation offices, pediatrics' establishments and medical schools, make clear to the people, broadly, the injurious effect of religious superstitions such as fasting, the blessing of children, baptism and circumcision.

Lecture propaganda plays a conspicuous role in providing atheism education to the workers. Lectures on various topics raise the knowledge and political consciousness of the people and instill a scientific worldview. Recently, in particular, the standardization of lectures, which have become a widely employed standard practice, on a number of definite themes and their presentation in cycles has been very successful.

Customarily, atheists have taken part in lectures on atheist themes generally. However, no one is forced to participate. To tell the truth, however, lecture and film-lecture bureaus on scientific atheism, and schools providing information on nature, society and man, are very few in our country. The system of scientific atheism offices has not been developing and the existing ones are not operating systematically. Likewise, we have been unable to carry out atheism education work among workers of the mass communications and propaganda media. Material on atheism themes is rarely encountered in the periodical press and the contribution of radio and television to this work is, for the present at least, insignificant. Materials programmed now and then turn out, by and large, to be perfunctory. The reason is that their authors are generally persons ignorant of atheism and write superficially on questions of the struggle against religion. The task here is to bring real atheists to the press, to radio and to television, and increase the influence of atheism propaganda and atheism education.

In this connection it seems worthwhile to increase the scope of literature published on atheism and devote attention to improving its content. At the present time atheists of the republic are in great need of the necessary tools. What has been published is simply republished again and again and these works do not take the peculiarities of atheism work in our republic into consideration. Thus, thought must be given to this question and sound action taken. The resources of our press, and the abilities of our specialists, are adequate for providing atheists with the required, high quality methodological tools.

The immediate objective of atheism education must be our posterity, the members of the younger generation. The reason is that final disappearance of survivals and religious superstitions is determined by the atheism education that we provide to the younger generation. Thus, since "children learn young," atheism education, like other forms of education, must begin when the children are small, at home. In her time, N. Krupskaya pointed out, very properly, that impressions gained in childhood last a life time and that it takes many years to undo a false impression made on the mind of an infant.

To be sure, the younger generation is particularly protected in our country. Their education and work training, and the instilling of the best qualities in them is manifestly important. The rights and privileges of children are protected by Soviet law. Since priest and religious leaders cannot have any direct influence upon children, these persons try to achieve their evil purposes through the parents of the children. To be sure, it is indeed possible for the poison of religion to be passed on to others in families of religious persons! However, it is not easy for this to happen. The school is assigned a major function in this connection. The school must, in this case, be the foundation of humanitarian and atheism propaganda. However, it must be noted that at many schools atheism work is not being carried out systematically on a daily basis. For example, according to the findings of a recent survey, the question of atheism education for students found absolutely no support in the education work plans of a number of schools of Alma-Ata cities. How can work be expected of people when it does not appear in the plans at all. In our view, this is the result of great irregularity, not only on the part of school administrators, but also on the part of party organizations. Atheism education should never be forgotten. The reason is that it is a core element of communist education for the younger generation.

At the same time, it would be a good idea to expand atheism projects in the system for providing commercial and technical knowledge. In this there are other special problems, side by side with the many problems of the schools. This must be taken into account strictly. We must, to instill a scientific worldview in students of higher education institutions, train them by involving them actively in the idealism-political education and atheism propaganda carried out among the workers. Propagandizing of new Soviet traditions, and new customs, and the making of them into a part of daily life, occupies a special position within the atheism education system. In December of last year, at the initiation of the CP Kaz Central Committee, republic regional seminar-councils were organized for socialist customs in the cities of Paulodar and Oral. This has greatly benefited the improvement of atheism education among the workers.

Party committees have accumulated good experiences in celebrating traditions and work festivals of national significance. Oblast, city, district and town and village soviets of people's deputies are devoting special attention to propagandizing new Soviet customs and traditions and practices associated with them, and introducing them into daily life. Cultural offices, higher and middle education institutions, commercial-technical schools, schools, Z.A.G.S. [expansion unknown] bureaus, and community economic and service organizations are being actively mobilized for this work.

However, there are several major deficiencies and problems needing solutions in propagandizing socialist customs in the regular residences of the people and in making them a part of daily life. Some commissions concerned with Soviet customs and festivals under the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies are not working forcefully and have not been solving soundly problems connected with beautification of workers' residential districts and with setting them ablaze with idealistic-political and mass cultural work.

At the same time, effort is being made to accomplish a number of things in the area of celebrating festivities such as marriages and the christening of new born children in a brilliant and memorable manner. It seems fitting that thought also be given to the problem of celebrating wedding feasts. The reason is that they cannot be allowed to degenerate into noise and outcry, as they are celebrated today in many places. It is necessary that marriage feasts be celebrated meaningfully and elegantly so as to leave behind a fine feeling in the minds of the young couple and exercise influence on the stability of the young Soviet family.

Party committees must devote daily attention to strengthening further the material and technical base for work connected with the new customs and traditions. That there are, these days, insufficiencies of marriage rings, clothing and costumes for bride and groom, and things needed for new born children in the stores of the cities and local centers of Zhabl, Gavr'ev and Qaraghandi oblasts must be considered an expression of the shallowness and incompetency of the commercial establishments and their managers.

In discussing the struggle against superstitious survivals, we cannot fail to mention another related problem. This is the problem connected with funeral and burial customs, when someone has died. To be sure, the dead are to be shown the honor that was shown to the living. And so it is. And it is said that in honoring someone deceased a model for the younger generation in terms of the special place the deceased occupied in society and what he achieved for his people is being provided, and that the younger generation receives training from this. No one is against this. However, in recent times, as a result of the evil consequences of the acts carried out by religious leaders and mullah types in secret, foolish excesses have been allowed in this area. For example, stones and memorials placed at the head of graves constructed in some local cemeteries are like the edifices of very olden, even medieval times. Substantial labor resources, building materials and sometimes finances of up to 5-10 thousand rubles are expended upon their construction. All of this is known to but ignored by local organs and in some places disgusting acts such as bowing down to saints are even encountered. "When someone dies the mullahs get fat." The strange acts of religious leaders and itinerate mullahs, who, just like the proverb says, live off the misery of the people, on behalf of society are not, however, being exposed and stopped in time.

We must not forget to adhere strictly to laws existing in connection with religion. However, merciless struggle against religion, which poisons the minds of the people, and against superstitious survivals, is the respected duty of each communist.

In the materials the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU, in recent resolutions of the party central committee and in the addresses and speeches of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, precise directions are given for the further perfection of ideological work and, within it, of atheism education among the masses, and current tasks are set.

The system presently in force for providing atheism education to the workers is the party's Leninist strategy for carrying out, in a sophisticated manner, in terms of science and dialectical materialism, the management of the process of eliminating the evil of religion. It has the aim of educating a new man of excellent qualities, who has come to express every aspect of the communist party, and is part of a large number of innovative activities being carried out as a system.

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REGIONAL

KAZAKHS 'OBLIGATED' TO RAISE LARGE FAMILIES, DEMOGRAPHER ARGUES

Alma-Ata MADENIET JANE TURMIS in Kazakh No 10, Oct 80 pp 20-21

[Article by Maqash Tatimov, demographer and Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences:
"A Family With Children Is Like a Bazaar"]

[Text] "One of man's pleasures is children." And just as our father, the sage Abay, has said, raising children is the civic duty of each adult for the benefit of his own people and society. But how many children should a family have?

On the surface this would appear to be a matter to be decided by the parents themselves, in accordance with their desires and family situation.

Our Kazakh families have always been characterized for their large numbers of children. Nevertheless, it is well known that our people's growth rate was restrained in many ways before the revolution, with a high infant mortality rate due to various kinds of diseases. For example, according to old statistics, 25 percent of newborn children died before age 1; 50 percent before age 5; and more than 60 percent of all children failed to reach maturity or died from various infectious diseases before their 16th year. This was typical during the period when the Kazakh people were nomadic.

Compared to those difficult times infant mortality today is practically nonexistent. This is the result of the immeasurably better living conditions of our people and strenuous efforts to protect the health of children as medical assistance improves. Before, for example, while only 2-3 children, or fewer, remained alive of women who had become pregnant up to 10 times, at present almost all infants born become healthy and grow up.

Thus, it is clear that the growth rate of the Kazakh people has, at present, begun to be not a factor of the death rate, as before, but of the birth rate.

This new, advantageous situation requires that the young families of today carry on the tradition of the Kazakh people by raising many children. However, this is not to say that we demographers do not have major problems in this area.

The beginning of a limiting of the number of children in a family has become clearly noticeable among Kazakhs recently. In particular, the problem of a declining number of children in families among urban inhabitants, especially among

the rural intelligentsia, has become evident. According to the latest demographic statistics the number of births per 1,000 reached 45 in 1960 but declined to only 30 in later years. During 1958-59 fertility among Kazakh women aged 18-49 was 220 per 1,000 but by 1969-70 it had declined to 163 per thousand and in 1978-79 this indicator had fallen to about 135 per 1,000. The reasons for such a decline are clear. It turns out that only one-third of the decline is due to late marriages by Kazakh youth and the other two-thirds, is the result of a voluntary limitation by the parents on the number of children in a family.

At present many young parents consider two children optimum. However, they are very wrong in this view and people fail to realize it. If they understood they would clearly realize this. For this reason we have thought it expedient to prevent the further spread of this problem by shaping public attitudes against family limitation with lectures given to the people via radio and television and also through the press.

According to the research of demographers, if all families have only two children population growth would come to a complete halt or continue to decline. The reason is that the two children replace only their two parents. However, there are also those dying young or, if they grow up, those failing to marry for one reason or another, those separating soon after marriage, and parents who live together for a long time but are childless. Thus, according to the arguments of demographers, at least three children are needed in each family to compensate for the gaps that arise as a matter of course among the people as a whole. Only if there are three children in each family will the population not decline.

But how many children should there be in each family for population growth? With four children the population will begin to show clear growth, with five it will grow rapidly, with six it will attain a very high growth rate, and with seven there will be a population explosion. The eighth, ninth and tenth children that are born in a family with many children are not just the pride and joy of their parents but a benefit to their native people and good fortune for society as a whole.

There has been a great decline in the number of large families amongst our people and the widespread appearance of families with few children will require, in the future, active demographic measures to maintain the average size of the Soviet family. At the present time aid is given to parents with many children and there are numerous benefits for pregnant women, or women who have given birth. At the same time, effort is being made to spread the proper view among the people that families with few children are not advantageous to the long term needs of society.

Also, family size has a direct impact upon economic conditions in our country. There is the incorrect notion held by the people that large families place a heavy burden on society. They conclude that large families are an economic disadvantage since they require increased housing, and create the need for clothing, food and the construction of kindergarten and schools. But when we examine the problem in depth this does not turn out to be true. These children, when they grow to maturity, become part of the work force and become producers instead of consumers. In essence, they will contribute to society far more than they have received. Continuous improvement in our strength is connected with this. That is to say,

the growth and maturation of these children is one economic pre-condition which plays a conspicuous role in increasing the material riches of our people, and the basis for the continued supply of labor resources.

Recent statistical data shows that limiting the number of children in families has begun to noticeably restrict population growth. For example, as mentioned above, whereas during the 11 year intercensal period 1959-70 the natural growth of our population was 46 percent, during the last intercensal period, from 1970-1979, or during a 9 year period, growth was shown to have only approached 24 percent. Thus, in comparison to the earlier period, the average yearly growth rate of our population in recent years has declined greatly, from 4.2 percent to 2.6 percent.

The size of a family directly influences family stability. When there are only a few children in a family the family is sometimes more unstable and family break-up is easier.

But small families are not only an inconvenience in social life but also in early childhood training. If children grow up in families as only children they become accustomed "to taking much and giving little," and become inclined to such behavior. Since they are alone in their environments their parents and grandparents tend to spoil them. For this reason such children develop a real conceit, an attitude of "me first" and an unbridled egotism. The only child tends to hold himself away from group activities.

However, in a large family, where there are persons of the same age growing up together and establishing close relationships, they later mature into siblings who advise and take advice from one another. As good social behavior develops in these children a smooth family and social life develops, and the children become an early support for their parents. Thus consideration must be given equally to the quantitative and qualitative development of children in families. Their numbers must be maintained. The foundation of life and continuation of generations places such social requirements upon us.

We must see that our young people carry on the very fine tradition of our people, the tradition of raising large numbers of children. The Kazakh people, like other peoples, rate children highly and greatly esteem them. Expressing this are proverbs such as: "A family with children is like a bazaar. The joy of a child is in itself. Just as you will leave behind riches leave behind children. Let there be an opened door before a man and a rocking cradle before a woman."

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REGIONAL

TRACES OF POLISH CULTURE IN L'VOV DESCRIBED

Warsaw NASHE SLOVO in Ukrainian No 49, 7 Dec 80 p 2

[Article: "The Ukraine in the Polish Press: Written in L'vov"]

[Text] "L'vov remains a multinational city with an oriental tint and a current population of more than 700,000 inhabitants. At the bazaar Georgians in national dress sell southern fruits, while the swarthy inhabitants of Moldavia offer grapes and peppers," writes T. Gashtol'd, a correspondent of the newspaper GLOD POMORZA (No 242). How much truth there is in these words only the citizens of L'vov can say. Anyway, the article is basically dedicated to the traces of Polish culture in the city. Thus, as the author says, the popularizers of Polish cultural achievements are primarily the university, a branch of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and a department of the Russian-Polish Friendship Society, which is currently headed by Semen Stefanyk, the son of a famous Ukrainian writer. The society maintains constant ties with representatives of Polish culture and science who visit the Ukraine, and not only Ukrainians, but also Poles who are citizens of the Ukraine are involved in its work. In L'vov today, there are nearly 10,000 of them. Their children have the opportunity to attend two elementary schools with instruction in the Polish language. There was a third school, but it was closed in 1980 because of a lack of students. In addition, Polish can be studied in special courses. Every day 5,000 copies of TRYBUNA LUDU are distributed in the city. CZERWONY SZTANDAR, which is published in Vilnius, is also read there. Polish books rapidly disappear from bookstore shelves. The library has several thousand volumes of such literature. L'vov historians and philologists are constantly busy with Polish-Ukrainian cultural and literary relations. Each year conferences take place there which are dedicated to these relations. The university does not have a department of Polish philology, however lectures and faculty studies devoted to Polish literature are conducted. Local polonists and polonists invited from Poland conduct them. Recently invited were Pszczowski, Sandauer, Zukrowski and Nagrebecki. Each year's activities also envelope the Polish theater. It is obvious from the above-mentioned that the correspondent found many traces of Polish culture in L'vov.

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REGIONAL

ESTONIAN THEATER PRODUCES TAGANKA PLAY ON ABORTION, 'DIXIELAND'

Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 23 Nov 80 p 2

/Article by B. Tukh: "Protect the Human Being in Oneself"/

/Text/ The emotional level of the production is set by its prologue.

The harsh sound of a siren. Pushing their way through the members of the audience, who throng the foyer, two orderlies bring in a sheet-covered body on a stretcher. The esthetics of the shock on the nerves of the audience work flawlessly. After entering the hall and taking a seat, examining the stage sets made by David Borovskiy, the member of the audience continues to get into the mood to take in the theatrical performance; during that time the theater has time to "come to an agreement" with him on the artistic language of the play.

Veniamin Smekhov, an actor of the Moscow Taganka Theater, staged the play "Dixieland" by Anatoliy Brezhnev at the State Youth Theater of the Estonian SSR, and David Borovskiy, chief artist of the Taganka Theater, designed the sets. The trademark "Made at Taganka" is clearly visible in this play.

The very title of the play contains its genre attribute. It is a work for dramatic theater, which is constructed according to the laws of a musical composition, it is difficult here to speak about a plot in the usual understanding of the word, rather it is possible to distinguish individual themes which are developed in parallel, intersecting only at times, their simultaneous existence in the play, their constant joining and opposition also form its artistic technique.

It is a play of everyday life, because it is a question in it of subjects of a quite everyday character, even those things which art often avoids touching upon. The action takes place in a gynecological clinic, and of the four heroines of the play three are awaiting their turn for an abortion, while the fourth, for whom it is extremely dangerous to have a baby, is ready to give birth to a child at the cost of her own life.

But it is also a poetic play, because its evocatively prosaic details are united according to the complex laws of the associative bond and the entire graphic system of the production is lofty poetry. The artist acts here as a full coauthor of the play; the graphic moves originate in the underlying idea of the playwright and are accomplished plastically in the direction and the sets.

Veniamin Smekhov, who is known first of all as one of the leading actors of the Taganka Theater, who incarnates precisely and convincingly the idea of the director (let us recall his Krzysztof in "The Peak Hour," the Officer in "Mother," Claudius in "Hamlet," Woland in "The Master and Margarita"), in directing appears as the talented and consistent student of Yuriy Lyubimov. The "musical" composition with an abrupt emotional splash at first, the associative interweaving of the episodes, when the main theme of the play announces itself first more loudly, then more indistinctly, but constantly remains in the perception of the audience, in general is characteristic of many works of the Taganka Theater. In "Dixieland" both the main theme and each of the four main lines are in constant development (and this is precisely the artistic development, and not the mechanical adding up of information in the case of the internal immobility of the theme!).

And it is also a social play, since the characters of the play sense especially keenly their involvement in the world and society precisely where the action of "Dixieland" takes place, at the starting point of human life. This feeling can be optimistically harmonious, as it is among fathers who are awaiting news about who in their families was born and what the weight of the child is, or dramatically conflicting, as it is among women who are trying to get rid of their children, but in any case it exists. And hence the ideas incorporated by the playwright in the play infect the director and the actors, and through them the audience.

Each group of characters in this play can be compared with a group of musical instruments. The four men who have gathered in the public garden next to the maternity home--the Official (Eero Spriyt), the Painter (Kaarel Kil'vet), the Gypsy (Guydo Kangur) and the Student (Veyko Yurisson)--act as a wildly cheerful chorus, but thoughts about itself and its place in the world are interspersed at times in this general cheerful intonation (concern for the great secret of human appearance into the world obliges it!). The simple-hearted Painter is tormented by the question: "Will I be needed in the 21st century?" while the unprogrammed nature of childbirth instills some apprehensions in the Official--if even in such a question it is not clear who is being born, a boy or a girl, is all the organizing activity of the Official, who is obviously struggling against any lack of programming, any unpredictability, necessary at all?

However, the entire line of the four men, like the unexpected intrusions of the Man With a Trombone, who is constantly worrying that in the maternity home someone might take his child instead of their own, and toward the end faints, is only a contrast which sets off the dramatic effect of the remaining three lines.

These three lines are inseparably interconnected. And it is difficult to separate them, having said: here you have a symbolic line (the episodes with Adam and Eve), here you have a drama of everyday life (the three women who for different reasons are going for an abortion), while here you have a lofty tragedy (the Physician and his wife Ol'ga, who knows that she will die from childbirth, but prefers to die in order to save her child).

The connection of these lines is revealed through the graphic world of the play and the staging. The apple which Eve gave Adam becomes an image which runs through the entire production. At first Adam (Reyn Oya) eagerly accepts the apple from the hands of Eve (Katrin Saukas), then he customarily peels the apple and eats it with

crunching and the smacking of his lips, and even later appears with a full string bag of apples and carelessly swings it. Love has been vulgarized, made commonplace, been frittered away. And here again on the stage are apples piled up in a rough wooden box. Did not Adam rise to the situation? If you wish, yes, it is Adam--for every man is this Adam. And the fault of Adam is present in the drama of each of the three women. Zhanna (Iyvi Lepik), who sees in the freedom not to have a child the liberation of a woman, a means of preserving femininity, as if femininity does not consist in giving birth to children (!), asserts herself. The good, light-hearted and weak-willed Vika (Ene Yarvis) does not know another solution. The young Tanya (Maret Mursa), who is going for an abortion at the insistence of her parents, does not yet entirely understand what is happening to her. The dramatic effect of each fate is emphasized by the isolation of these heroines. Each one related her theme in a monolog, each one is absorbed in her own thoughts and does not try to understand the others.

And, finally, there is the central line of the play--the Physician (Ago Roo) and Ol'ga (Luule Komissarov). Here the tragic conflict appears in the purest aspect which is free of everyday details. The entire life of the Physician passes in the struggle to save human lives, but when he himself has to choose between the life of his wife and the life of his still unborn child, the situation of choosing is spiritually beyond his strength. Ago Roo conveys very accurately the tension in which his hero exists, a great emotional strain is clearly visible behind the outwardly reserved outline of the role. In general "Dixieland" refutes the existing notion of the Youth Theater as a primarily rational theater which achieves an effect on the member of the audience first of all by means of logical constructs, and the emotionality of the plays of which is determined by the emotional effect of the material, and not by the emotionality of the performance of the actors. The esthetics of the Taganka Theater, to which the producer of "Dixieland" is consistently true, are unexpectedly close and fruitful for the actors of the Youth Theater, they freely and confidently feel themselves in this play.

The content of the production is considerably broader than the everyday story which makes up its foreground. /To save the child/ /in boldface/ in the context of this play means /to protect the human being in oneself and to protect mankind in the world/ /in boldface/. The material of the play does not withdraw into its own bounds, the social and moral problems of the play make it possible to speak about it as a stage work, which bears an active civic position and forces the member of the audience--first of all the young member--to ponder "over time and himself."

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REGIONAL

SYRIAN UZBEK VISITS UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent OZBEKISTAN MADANIYATI in Uzbek 21 Nov 80 p 4

[Article: "A Sense of Homeland, Prose Poem by Burhan Bukhariy"]

[Text] Burhan Bukhariy's father originally came from Andijan and his mother from Shahrikhan. All Uzbeks living abroad call themselves Bukhariy, whatever city they come from.

Burhan Bukhariy was born in Damascus in 1941. He was educated at Damascus University. Initially, his articles on literature and culture were published in the Syrian press but later his plays were published and some have been staged in the Arabic countries.

Burhan Bukhariy has recently been working to end illiteracy in the Arab countries. Illiterates have been taught to read and write in a period of 3 months using his handbook. Not long ago he established special courses. Burhan Bukhariy methods have been the object of heated discussion in the Syrian press and articles have even been published in neighboring countries about them. In this way, the name of Burhan has been spread widely in the other Arabic countries. Burhan knows English language and English literature well and teaches the language as well as training many advanced students. Burhan speaks French, German and Italian fluently and is a translator. These days B. Bukhariy, who is visiting Tashkent, is beginning to acquire a deeper knowledge of Uzbek with the intention of translating the works of Uzbek authors into Arabic in the future. At the same time he is also studying Russian.

I

MY DEAR HOMELAND! Look! Another son of yours has returned to your breast! In his joy he is flung into its embrace like an infant at its mother's breast. What a wonder that the eyes of this child have not opened to suck in your light, that his small hands have not felt your soil, that he has not moved toward you with quiet steps, that his lungs have not pulled your life to breath. But it is your child nonetheless.

Oh Homeland! First you nurtured the consciousness of "Homeland" in one of your own, pressing it on me. Then you caused this consciousness to cover me like light from the heavens. In this way you transmitted yourself from one soul to another, stirred my blood, and left your mark upon me. In this way you made yourself a part of me, and through me, a part of my children.

But let me say that I had not seen you before. I could not comprehend you. But let me also say to you that wherever I have gone you have always been with me. But now I have come to your breast. I embrace my Homeland, which I have never seen before, and I am in the grip of your magic.

I fantasize, I struggle to gain an idea of the past. Behold! To seize possession completely of the whole past I slowly rouse and strengthen myself. Thus Natasha, the heroine of Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace," appears before my eyes. Natasha appears as if dancing a dance which she has neither learned nor understands. It is as if she has come down to dance, with her tender hand moving to strange, ancient rhythms. And in the end you wonder how Natasha is able to dance that which those before her did not dance. In essence not Natasha, but the blood in her veins danced.

Somehow I am caught up by a feeling, but I do not know what feeling catches me in its snare. I have lived in another country. I have given it my love, my bones have absorbed its feeling; I belong to it. I have dived into its ocean and drained its waters and I have lost my way and wandered its byways. I have gazed upon the hills of that foreign country. I have learned all sides of its life. But I don't understand one thing. We are in this world such a short time that people seem to flash past us, but people seeing me whisper that he has "found his roots" at last.

This feeling in me, where this joyful life of mine is leading, this I do not understand. It may be that my grandfather, who embodied in himself my form and the forms of my children, has left me a legacy of his own memories and feelings. Perhaps.

I am like a swallow. By its nature the swallow feeds on many mountains and hills, soars over humanity, and migrates from one people to another. And the swallow flies straight to the nest of its ancestors, who have not seen new generations come into the world. The swallows return to the nest again and again, thousands of times. Compelled by habit, it would seem. I too, like the swallow, seem as though I have flown back to the land that I yearn for, where my ancestors made their Homeland.

Oh my dear Homeland! Feeling is just a word, only a word. Laden with dew it melts like the rainbow. It is fragrant with basil and savory gardens. It sounds like the harmony of a million nightingales. The image of a thousand bees gathering the nectar of the flowers concentrates in itself the whole strange secret.

For one yearning for his beloved, is not every meeting with her lover just like the very first? May my finding of the lover do her well. May the beloved herself be at peace!*

* An expression used by the author when arriving at a party for him in Tashkent

I long for the evening. And even for one impatient for evening, the dawn came all too slowly. Each minute, each second passed very slowly, seemed to drag on.

Oh thou my Homeland! Look! You have become visible before me. You have become incarnated in the form of something great, wonderful and filled with mystery before my eyes.

II

I wander your streets and alleys and look about and see what is to be seen. Sometimes, in the grip of fantasy, I go off somewhere. With another blink I open my eyes widely and something comes face to face with me. I stare at it and it fills my consciousness. I stand in quiet astonishment, as if I have seen something amazing. But the people there seem to take no notice of me. That both embarrasses and horrifies me. It astonishes me that they do not see me and that they do not hear my heart beating loud enough to burst. I want to talk with everyone I meet on the streets. I want to embrace and kiss all of them. I want to feel more deeply the earth under my feet and press up to and examine the walls. Am I really in my Homeland? But these feelings cannot, in any way, catch me in their snare. I begin to wander again, restraining myself with calm stride.

This reminds me of a one-sided love. A one-sided love is so difficult. But still more difficult, no one perceives the extra figure. In the end, if he were to alight next to the beloved she would not notice. But finally the desire to see her, to embrace her so discomforts him. I drown in a sea of fantasy.

Those moving quietly at my father's birthplace begin to take shape before my eyes. Later their spirit will be part of my flesh. It begins to move on a level with me, as part of me, in my direction. And behold! It is face to face with me. It begins to overflow with the colors of last love. It creates marvelous spectacles as if taking as capital and loan the shade of a tree.

It is as if my father stirs before my eyes, as if he begins moving. He walks, he runs, he goes to school, a book under his arm. His stroking and twirling of his young moustasche become embodied. My father as an infant, as a boy, as a grown man, an old man, 80 years in an instant flashing before my eyes.

Now I know that history is not events we read about in books, or events that remain fixed in our memories, but my father himself. His history can be that of a person filled with weakness, with strength, with love, anxiety and dreams. The lives of such persons collectively give rise to the books of history.

Behold! Now I understand. Homeland has a sacred meaning. Because of this, in the novel "Christ on the Cross Again" by the Greek writer, Kazantsakis, Greeks in exile, away from their country, are unwilling to leave the bones of their ancestors underneath the country from which they have been driven away, so they dig up the graves and take the dust and bones with them in a bag. Wherever they go the remains of their ancestors are also taken along. They realize that the bones of the ancestors are the spirits of the Greeks. For this reason it seems as if I see Tolstoy looking towards the forests of Moscow, whence I have passed in my vision as thousands of aircraft land in Damascus. For the first time I saw Russia; I saw the

forests in a picture of Tolstoy. And it seems as though I am met by Sholokhov when I leave the plane at the airport, for I have seen this marvelous scene in his works. It must be because of this that some years ago a fellow countryman, who lived abroad, kissed, when he became homesick, a handful of the soil of his native land that he had taken along with him and so satisfied his mind. It must also be for this reason that when this countryman died he asked that the soil be sprinkled at the head of his grave. Because of this Babur, having become emperor of India, had melons brought from his native land. Indeed, they all have the feeling and love of country. This feeling has taken root and is passed from body to body, bone to bone. By necessity each remembers his homeland, longs for it, weeps and laments for it if it has vanished. Each is pleased when seeing it, revives it, makes it into flesh and bone, into the eloquence of the tongue and, if it is impossible, makes it possible.

And for this reason also, as soon as Ethiopia gained its independence and the strange troops left for foreign lands on ships, they scraped the clay off their boots, thinking that the bones of their ancestors should not go to foreign lands and be underfoot there. I read that in their folklore. This is the result of the conception of the soil of the native land, and a sense of homeland.

My Homeland so great!

My Homeland, so prosperous!

Translated from the Arabic
by Abdusadiq Irisov

11,433
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REGIONAL

PURITY OF BELORUSSIAN LANGUAGE SUFFERS ON STAGE, SCREEN

Minsk LITARATURA I MASTATSTVA in Belorussian No 48, 28 Nov 80 p 15

[Article by U. Aniskovich: "Accent or... Carelessness?"]

[Text] A letter to the editor by Candidate of Philological Sciences P. Sadouski, scientific worker at the Belorussian SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Linguistics imeni Yakub Kolas, which appeared in the 20 June 1980 (No 25) issue of this weekly under the title "Melpomene Against Orthoepy?", as one can assume from the sincere and interested responses by our readers, touched upon a sore spot in the artistic practices of the theaters, television and radio, for which our native language serves as a means of communication with viewers and listeners.

Our readers will recall that P. Sadouski's letter dealt with occurrences which have become fairly common, deviations -- by actors on the stage and by TV program masters of ceremonies -- from the generally accepted standards of pronunciation of the Belorussian language. "Correct pronunciation, as a component of the expressive means of the art of language, performs an aesthetic function," he correctly stated. "Without it, the word of artistic expression ceases to be artistic." The authors of responses received by the editors to P. Sadouski's letter are fully in agreement with this (with one exception, to be true: a reader from the city of Dzhambul in the Kazakh SSR, Mikalay Yurasau, sent a letter bearing the expressive title "But What If It Is a Matter of Accent?") -- Kh. Kakhanouski and M. Yermalovich from Molodechno, S. Dubavets, a worker at the Minsk Gorizont Production Association, and others.

"Indeed," writes Comrade Yermalovich, for example, "one cannot tolerate a situation where you attend a performance at the Academic Theater and hear from the stage a language which is quite distant from academic pronunciation standards. We shall not argue over the question of what is the reason for this -- ignorance of today's pronunciation of the language or indifference toward the matter -- for both are equally incompatible with an actor's work. Just imagine (although this is practically impossible to imagine) that even a single word was pronounced incorrectly according to literary standards from the stage of the Little Theater or Moscow Academic Art Theater. There is no doubt whatsoever that this would immediately be viewed as an extraordinary event...."

In their letters of response our readers acknowledge that recently there has been a noticeable improvement in the skill of Belorussian TV and radio announcers and masters of ceremonies and of actors performing on the stage; new programs have

appeared, such as the TV journal "Native Word." But the demands on these programs are also high, for "the TV screen gathers a very large audience, and TV is obligated to give this audience excellent models of usage of our native language" (M. Yermalovich); particularly since "the prestige of speakers of our native language, enhanced by a high level of culture, has become for the majority of viewers and listeners practically a textbook authority, whereby the public trustingly and unhesitatingly adopts what it sees and hears on television and radio" (S. Dubavets).

"But what if it is a matter of accent?" asks M. Yurasau from afar.

He is in agreement that one should speak cleanly, avoiding "a mixture of French with Nizhniy Novgorod dialect," but he also states that this is difficult to attain in our republic -- and "for the simple reason that even in the most remote corners of the republic, many people speak quite cleanly and correctly in the Great Russian language.... The Russian language is very popular in Belorussia, as it is, incidentally, in the other brother republics as well. And this is a marvelous sign!"

It is unquestionably a marvelous sign, and also a marvelous reality that in the Soviet land the Russian language has become the national language, which serves as a powerful means of intercourse, mutual understanding and mutual rapprochement of peoples. But we are talking about something else. The Russian "accent" which does detriment to some Belorussian performers is nothing other than, to put it mildly, a result of inadequate mastery of either language, inadequate language awareness and knowledgeability.

Here are two letters which the editors received more recently and which apparently are not an immediate reaction to P. Sadouski's letter -- a letter from a resident of Minsk, L. Tarasenko (he did not state his occupation) and mathematician-computer programmer N. Davydouskaya. But these letters address a subject which is of great interest to us: the authors share their impressions about performances at the Kupala Theater. Comrade Tarasenko recently attended a performance of "Paharel'tsy" [Persons Who Have Lost All Their Possessions in a Fire], based on a play by A. Makayenko, at the Academic Theater imeni Yanka Kupala. What does he have to say? "It is difficult to put my impressions into words:" on the one hand -- an interesting play, beautiful sets, and pretty fair acting, and on the other hand -- "I must note a very unpleasant element -- it is a question of the purity of language, for who if not the theater should show concern for this, particularly since the Theater imeni Ya. Kupala is deservedly viewed as the custodian of Belorussian culture...." This is followed by a long list of examples of careless pronunciation, "which unfortunately could be continued almost endlessly." Cited examples include "ladna," "kak pravila," "padobiye," "z-za pustsyakovin," etc.

"I feel," states the author of the letter, "that performers should pay attention to such 'pustsyakoviny' [trivial matters -- Belorussianized rendering of a Russian word], for they do great violence to the ear."

Similar comments are contained in the letter from N. Davydouskaya, who attended a performance of the Fermo comedy "Dzvery stukayuts'" [Doors Knocking] at the Theater imeni Ya. Kupala. "Everything went along fairly well when the actors were speaking slowly and calmly. But when the action on stage required a faster pace, words crept into their Belorussian speech which were neither Russian nor Belorussian, but some kind of mangled linguistic offerings...."

Thus we have arrived at the heart of the matter of this "accent."

The letter's author hastens to state that her comments apply only to the young actors -- the older actors possess a good mastery of the language.... But some young actors unfortunately do not even know how the pronoun "ya" [I] is declined, and say "tsyabe" [you (familiar singular, dative-prepositional) -- Belorussianized pronunciation of the Russian form] in place of "tabye".... "This distorts the meaning of the sentence [tsyabe is the genitive-accusative form in Belorussian], not to mention the fact that this fractured Belorussian assaults the ear...."

The theater (and television as well) is nurtured and sustained by the favor and affection of the public. Thus it should obviously be "courteous in return," at the very least. Not in words, plenty of which (good ones, of course!) are addressed to the viewer, but in deeds.

"It is high time to move from word to deeds!" writes M. Yermalovich in his letter. "Steps should be taken by the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Culture, by the Belorussian SSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and by theater directors."

We couldn't agree more.

3024

CSO: 1800

REGIONAL

TAJIK PRAISES BOOK BY FORMER AFGHAN PREMIER

Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 9 Dec 80 p 4

[Review-article by N. Vakhobova, scholarly staff member of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Tajik SSR Academy of Sciences: "The Wanderings of Bang and Others"]

[Text] This year the Progress Publishing House published a collection of short stories by the outstanding political leader and faithful son of the Afghan people, Nur Mukhammed Taraki, entitled "The Wanderings of Bang" (translations by Z. Kalinina, K. Lebedeva, and L. Yatsevich). Under Taraki's leadership the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (NDPA) was formed, which from the earliest days of its existence and official founding (1965) conducted active political work among various strata of the Afghan people and its army. At the first plenum of the NDPA Central Committee Nur Mukhammed Taraki was elected to be its general secretary. Led by N. M. Taraki, the NDPA raised the Afghan people to the point where they carried out the April 1978 Revolution.

But Taraki was well known already as a talented writer. While engaged in political activity, Taraki never forgot literature, considering it to be a powerful weapon in the struggle to liberate the Afghan people from age-old oppression and exploitation. As Yu. Kornilov noted in his preface to the collection, "...though he was head of the party, N. M. Taraki did not abandon his literary work, being fully justified in regarding literature and publicism as an exceptionally important and sharp weapon in the struggle for those ideals which the NDPA defends."

This collection includes the short stories entitled "The Wanderings of Bang," "Spin," and "In Search of a Living." The first of these is undoubtedly one of the best short stories in modern Afghan prose. With a winningly sincere exactness the author portrays the life of the poorest strata of Afghanistan's population, their adversities, poverty, and lack of rights. In dealing with the problem of social inequality, on the other hand, the writer discloses the formation of classconsciousness among the laboring masses.

Bang--the hero of this story--is a poor village lad who leaves his home in order to seek work. What difficulties he encounters in his wanderings!

After some time Bang returns home. He has acquired no material goods whatsoever. However, after meetings with some factory workers during his wanderings tangible changes occur in his consciousness. For the first time Bang ponders the question: "why are there poor people and rich people?" And behind Bang one sees the entire Afghan people, aroused from its age-long peaceful slumber, one sees its growing dissatisfaction with a life without rights.

In another story--"Spin"--the basic subject deals with those people whom Taraki, always criticizing, regards as the main ones guilty of the people's impoverished status. The writer devotes his principal attention to such deeply rooted phenomena among certain strata of the population as selfishness, cruelty, avarice. The plot of this short story is simple: after the death of a well-to-do person a real battle begins among the deceased's relatives over the division of his property. Also taking part in this battle are a khan and a mullah. Nor is the slightest sympathy evoked from the author by the deceased's son--Spin, although the latter falls into the clutches of his own guardians. But, in the final analysis, he does not suffer from this, and indeed Spin has more in common with all the "benefactors" than he does dissimilarities.

The short stories "The Wanderings of Bang" and "Spin" were first published in 1958. And four years later another of N. M. Taraki's short story--"In Search of a Living"--was published. The hero of this work, the young lad Tor, just like Bang, is forced to wander about in search of a living. And here the story deals with how difficult it is for working people to live, how it is deceived and ruthlessly exploited by the rich people. And again the author's goal is to show the awakening of the people's self-awareness.

During the last few years, particularly after the April Revolution in Afghanistan, we have heard and read a great deal about N. M. Taraki, a man who gave his life for the sake of the liberty and happiness of the Afghan people. Now we have in our hands a collection of his short stories, the pages of the very recent history of the Afghan people, who are today confidently defending their right to a new and bright life.

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